MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 DECEMBER 1981

Golan Heights Law

Knesset Vote, Israeli Comment -- Jerusalem radio announced that the Knesset approved by a vote of 63 to 21 a Cabinet decision to apply Israeli law, jurisdiction and administration to the territory of the Golan Heights, effective immediately. During the Knesset debate on the decision, broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Prime Minister Begin asserted that the Golan Heights has been and will remain an integral part of Eretz Yisra'el." He defended the Cabinet decision by claiming that in the past Syria made life unbearable for the civilian population living below the Golan Heights and that Syria completely denies Israel's right to exist. Begin also quoted Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad as saying in his recent interview with a Kuwaiti paper that Syria will not recognize the state of Israel even if the PLO does. However, according to the monitored text of the interview, published by AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM on 13 December, Al-Asad did not say this.

Jerusalem radio reported on 15 December that Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan was called back early from a visit to Egypt because of developments since the passage of the Golan Heights law. The radio also noted that the IDF has taken "all the necessary measures" in the Golan Heights in view of the possibility of Syrian troop movements or of terrorist attempts to harass Golan Heights settlements.

Terming the Golan Heights Law an exercise in "monumental self-deception," the Jerusalem POST said it was a snap decision "shoved down the Knesset's throat" without time for deliberation. The POST asserted that the act has placed Israel in violation of UN Resolution 242, the basis of all peace negotiations, and has assured Syria of the support of the world community. According to Jerusalem radio, HA'ARETZ said Israel will find it difficult to justify the application of Israeli sovereignty to a territory outside the League of Nations mandate by citing the fact that Syria is not ready to sign a peace treaty. The radio also reported DAVAR's opinion that the government did not understand the gravity of the situation when it created a legislative fait accompli. The radio later cited a MA'ARIV editorial asserting that the speed with which the law was passed shows the government's weakness, because apparently it did not trust its ability to withstand pressure on the issue. MA'ARIV questioned whether the law is necessary.

Syrian Denunciation -- Damascus radio reported that Syria requested the immediate convocation of the UN Security Council to discuss the "dangerous, aggressive" Israeli measure, which it said confirms Israeli expansionism, insolence and arrogance. A Syrian Government statement broadcast later by the radio, charging that the Israeli decision means the annexation of "occupied Syrian territory," added that it also means the cancellation of the cease-fire between Israel and Syria. It said Syria reserves the right to take the "appropriate measures" against this "blatant violation" of the UN Charter and resolutions. SANA noted that Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam summoned the ambassadors of the states that are permanent members of the UN Security Council to convey to them Syria's rejection of the Israeli move.

Damascus radio also reviewed an ATH-THAWRAH article promising Syrian retaliation for the "Zionist provocation." The Golan, it said, is Syrian and will remain so.

Egyptian Rejection -- A statement by an Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman carried by MENA's English service asserted that Israel's decision on the Golan Heights is a violation of the framework of the Middle East peace concluded on 17 September 1979 and of the UN Security Council resolution on which the Camp David agreements are based. The statement declared Egypt's "categorical rejection" of the Israeli measure, which it termed null, void and illegal. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali later issued a press statement, reported by MENA, reiterating Egypt's rejection. Other MENA reports noted that 'Ali met separately with the U.S. and Israeli ambassadors to Egypt to inform them of Egypt's position.

Jerusalem television reported that the head of the Egyptian delegation to the autonomy talks in Tel Aviv, Tahir Shash, requested the cancellation of the 14 December afternoon meeting of the working teams because of the Cabinet decision. But Jerusalem radio reported the next morning that the meeting had taken place. It said the participants did not discuss the autonomy plan at all, but agreed to meet again on 15 December.

Other Reaction -- In an interview with Monte Carlo radio, PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi termed the Israeli move "obvious evidence" of Israel's expansionism and rejection of peace. He held the United States responsible for Israel's "aggressive" policy. An article in the Jordanian paper AR-RA'Y, reviewed by Amman radio, blamed the Israeli action on Arab disunity and stressed that solidarity and unified action are necessary to fight the Israeli challenge.

Citing Saudi Information Minister Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani, SPA reported that the Saudi Council of Ministers confirmed its total condemnation of the "illegal" Israeli measure, which it said contradicts all international laws and traditions. KUNA reported Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn's condemnation of the move, while Beirut radio broadcast a denunciation of it by Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan.

Lebanon

Voice of Lebanon reported that a 15 December car bomb explosion outside the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut killed 20 people and wounded more than 100. The Iraqi Ambassador was reported uninjured.

Syria

Voice of Lebanon radio reported that the Syrian authorities have arrested scores of supporters of Khalid Bakdash's wing of the Syrian Communist Party.

Jordan

PETRA-JNA reported that Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim gave the U.S. ambassador a message for Secretary of State Alexander Haig expressing Jordan's "pain and sorrow" over the U.S. decision to extradite Ziyad Abu 'Ayn to Israel.

Bahrain

WAKH reported that five armed men presented a memorandum to the Bahraini Embassy in Tehran in which they claimed responsibility for the group arrested in Bahrain for sabotage. They called on Bahrain to release the detainees, WAKH said. The Manama paper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ said during interrogation the saboteurs admitted receiving training in Iran. Citing the Kuwaiti paper AL-ANBA', QNA reported that Kuwaiti, Saudi and UAE nationals are among the 57 arrested members of the sabotage group. Manama television noted that Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah condemned the sabotage attempt, describing it as a flagrant interference in Bahrain's affairs aimed at creating disturbances and anarchy.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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FARUQ QADDUMI DENOUNCES GOLAN ANNEXATION

JN142123 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2037 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] We have on the line Faruq Qaddumi, head of PLO Political Department, who heard the report on the Egyptian reaction [to the annexation of the Golan Heights]. I have a question for Faruq Qaddumi who is presently in Athens with Yasir 'Arafat.

[Question] What is the PLO's reaction to the Knesset decision?

[Answer] The PLO condemns and denounces Israel's measures announcing the annexation of the Golan to Israel. This is obvious evidence of Israel's expansionist and aggressive policy. It is also obvious evidence that Israel rejects peace [words indistinct] just peace. The escalating aggressive policy of the United States is behind Israel. The United States, which a few days ago signed the U.S.-Israeli alliance, has increased Israel's bragging and its disavowal of the United Nations, international community will and UN resolutions. This challenge to the United Nations and to the international community is clear evidence that Israel is belittling world opinion and that it is continuing its aggressive policy. The United States is considered as the main side responsible for this policy, which will only increase tension in the region and eventually lead to a new war.

[Question] Faruq Qaddumi, do you think that there is any kind of timing between the Israeli decision and other world events, namely the events in Poland?

[Answer] Undoubtedly, many world events are interrelated. Yet this is an escalating aggressive and expansionist policy by Israel backed by the United States. There is no doubt that it is somehow related to the events in Poland. However, we must not go too far. We say that his policy is basically the policy of Israel which intends to annex much of the Arab lands. Israel does not want to withdraw from the Arab territories and, moreover, it is threatening world peace and security.

[Question] Thank you Faruq Qaddumi.

PLO AIDE WARNS OF RETALIATION AGAINST U.S.

TA141357 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish 1347 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Ankara, 14 Dec (AA) -- The PLO representative in Ankara, Abu Firas [Fadl Shrur] has alleged that "the Palestinians in the United States are living under continuous threat and the danger of being turned over to Israel."

At a news conference today, Abu Firas said "a student named Ziyad Abu 'Ayn who was studying in the United States was turned over to Israel by the U.S. administration." Abu Firas pointed out that the student was turned over to Israel under the pretext of being involved in anti-Israel terrorist activities, but that in reality he was working in the United States for the Palestinian cause. Abu Firas said: "The incident is not the problem of only one student. We believe that no power in the world can halt the Palestinian people. We will protect our citizens' rights wherever they are."

Abu Firas said there would be retaliation against the United States for having handed over Ziyad Abu 'Ayn to Israel. He added: "The retaliation against the United States will be determined and carried out in the most appropriate place and at a most appropriate time. The only guilty party in the handing over of the Palestinian student is the U.S. administration and it will bear the consequences. We know there are U.S. interests in the Middle East and we will strike a blow to these interests.

"This crime will lead to more crimes and Reagan and the U.S. administration will be responsible for them."

FATAH OFFICIAL VIEWS U.S., USSR ROLES IN REGION

JN112027 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Interview with Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member, by telephone from Kuwait for Friday program: "It Happened Tomorrow" -- date not given; recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent 'Adil Malik in Kuwait] Regarding Palestinian opinion on what is going on now, we met in Kuwait with Khalid al-Hasan, alias Abu as-Sa'id, and ask him: What do you think of U.S. and USSR activities in the region and how do you analyze the results?

[Khalid al-Hasan] U.S. and USSR activities in the region are nothing new, although the presence of U.S. and USSR envoys in the region at the same time after the Fes summit attaches special importance to the issue. Although Habib's visit was already scheduled, I believe the Soviet envoy was sent immediately after the Fes summit.

To understand these two moves, we must first go back to the nonsense heard from Israel, which belives the Arab situation to be so weak that it can expand the area under its control, especially toward southern Lebanon, by dealing a crushing blow to the Palestinian revolution in southern Lebanon, by embarrassing Syria and thus causing more confusion in Lebanon and on the Syrian domestic front, and also by causing confusion between the Palestinian revolution and Syria on this position.

It has been noticed that since starting his shuttle diplomacy in the region, Habib has been against this Israeli policy, not out of love for Lebanon or Syria or out of a desire to ease the situation, but out of fear that a further deterioration of the situation might lead to a direct clash between Syria and Israel, inflaming the region anew and further aggravating the crisis. Therefore, Habib is trying to calm the situation behind a veil of finding solutions to the Lebanon question, although it is obvious that such a solution must come from the Lebanese themselves.

With regard to the USSR, it has been noted that immediately after the failure of the Fes summit, an article was carried by the Soviet news agency hinting at the possibility of an outbreak of war in the region, meaning of course a direct military confrontation between Israel and Syria. There is a friendship treaty, or rather a joint defense pact, between Moscow and Syria. Therefore, Moscow had to make some kind of move in the region to show to the pro-Moscow Arabs that the USSR is ready to defend them regardless of how critical matters are and also to show pro-U.S. Arabs that the United States will not be allowed to monopolize the situation in the Middle East.

Therefore, the USSR wants to say that any aggression against Syria will be met by a unified Syrian-Soviet stand. It also wants to say that the Lebanon issue, to which the Palestinians and Moscow are parties, will not be monopolized by the United States. This explains the surprising statement issued by the Phalangists which said there is no objection to Moscow participation in the solution of the Lebanese question. However, the statement pointed out that Moscow's role should be that of a mediator between the Phalangists on the one hand, and the Syrians and the PLO on the other.

[Radio announcer] Brother Khalid al-Hasan, we will now take the microphone from our colleague 'Adil Malik in Kuwait and ask another question from the studio here. What is the resistance position now on the game of war and peace? Recently, we read a statement by Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] on Habib's mission in the region. In this statement, Abu Iyad said that Philip Habib submitted several requests to the Palestinian resistance through a third party.

We will sum up these requests as follows: first, the Palestinian forces should be massed in an area on the border with Syria; second, Beirut should be an open and demilitarized city; third, the UN forces in southern Lebanon should be reinforced, and, if the resistance does not accept this, Washington will not prevent Israel from attacking the south, or to be more frank, from striking at the resistance in southern Lebanon. Later it was said that Philip Habib came to the region to calm down the situation until next spring at least. How do you explain U.S. behavior?

[Khalid al-Hasan] As usual, U.S. behavior is characteristic of Western policy in general. The United States does not begin at the beginning, but always tries to begin at the end and play roles it should not assume. Any position taken by the resistance in Lebanon is always coordinated with the Lebanese. However, Habib wants to involve the Palestinian resistance in this. Actually, there are other things which Habib did not say openly; such as, that he did not want an outbreak of hostilities in Lebanon leading to a Syrian-Israeli confrontation, at the present time at least. The United States is trying to say that the problem is strictly a Palestinian one. But this is absolutely untrue. The problem is the internal situation in Lebanon and Israel's interference. Habib changed the trend of thought by putting the blame on the resistance, when he should have begun by deterring Israel and keeping it out of Lebanon. This is the only way that matters will proceed satisfactorily.

[Radio announcer] Has the Palestinian resistance communicated Philip Habib's viewpoint to the USSR envoy to the region?

[Khalid al-Hasan] Normally, when official Soviet envoys come to the region, we review the situation in the region with them frankly in compatibility with the existing ties of friendship with the USSR. But the most important thing here is not Habib's mission in the region, but the task of facing Israeli aggression which might be launched at any time.

[Radio announcer] I now give the microphone to my colleague Bisharah al-Bun from AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DAWLI to put other questions to Brother Khalid.

[Bisharah al-Bun] Philip Habib is not the only envoy in the region. The USSR also has its envoy; roving ambassador Mikhail Sytenko, who has visited several Arab capitals in the past few days. Kremlin spokesman Vadim Zagladin disclosed yesterday that the USSR is planning a Middle East initiative and that Moscow is holding consultations with the parties concerned. Khalid al-Hasan, it is understood that the PLO is a Soviet ally in the region. Has the PLO been acquainted with this initiative, and what is its opinion of it? Also, is the USSR presenting anything new now in the region?

[Khalid al-Hasan] First, I would like to stress that the PLO is not the USSR's ally in the region, because saying so would mean that it is a party to the world power struggle. The USSR is a friend of the PLO in the Palestinian arena who wants to help regain Palestinian rights. This clarification is essential if the question is to be put in its correct perspective. With regard to the question, it is obvious that there is a covert and overt struggle between Moscow and Washington. Washington wants to monopolize the Middle East and rejects even European interference. The USSR is opposed to U.S. monopolization of the Middle East. The Palestinian people and the masses of the Arab nation reject the monopolization of the Middle East by anyone and want to deal with everyone on the basis of his own interest. This is the real problem.

The struggle in the 50's and 60's between 'Abd an-Nasir and the United States is now being repeated under the Reagan administration. The United States is acting unilaterally in the region through bilateral agreements with Somalia, Sudan, Egypt, Israel and Oman. The Arab position is that the region should be one bloc with one central leadership which would deal with the outside world on the basis of its own interests.

By virtue of its position in international politics and the nature of its struggle with the capitalist world, the USSR does not want the capitalists, especially the United States, to act unilaterally in the Middle East or in any other part of the world. It considers itself a partner in international politics in all parts of the world. This is the real struggle in this phase of our history in which we are witnessing world power struggle. Therefore, the USSR seizes every opportunity to assert to its friends that it is standing by them. And, by sheer coincidence, these friends are opposed to U.S. monopolization of the region -- hence the identity of interests in this respect.

Israel is making continuous threats against Syria and the Palestinian resistance and even Saudi Arabia. Therefore, our friends had to react. This reaction was manifested by the visit of the Soviet envoy and the article published by the Soviet news agency immediately after the Fes summit. The United States says that it must act unilaterally and that anything contrary to this is hostile to U.S. policy and must, therefore, be fought. We are caught in the middle of this game.

[Radio announcer] In short, now that the U.S. and Soviet envoys have visited the region, how do you asses the game of war and peace? What is the winning card, in your opinion?

[Khalid al-Hasan] I believe that the game of no war, no peace is the winning card for another year at least, especially after the astonishing vacuum created by the failure of Fes summit. The failure of the Fes summit was a relief to everyone. It relieved Washington, because it is no longer compelled to take a stand on the Prince Fahd plan, or an amendment of this plan unanimously approved by the Arabs. The Middle East question was item number two on the agenda of the European summit [in London]. When the Fes summit failed, the Middle East item was deleted from the agenda. Thus Europe was relieved of the burden of having to define a stand on the issue.

The USSR, which had presented the Brezhenv initiative, was relieved to know that there would be no Arab, U.S. or European initiatives for the next year at least. Thus, the way is open for the USSR to coordinate with the pro-Moscow Arabs on the techniques of developing the Brezhnev initiative into a practical formula.

We note, therefore, that the failure of the Fes summit was in the interest of all parties rather than just the Palestinians and Arabs. The failure created a vacuum which relieved all these people and spared them the trouble of adopting a stand. As a matter of fact, it encouraged many countries. For instance, the United States concluded a strategic pact with Israel, and the French foreign minister made those sorrowful statements in Tel Aviv, despite President Mitterrand's successful visits to Algeria and Saudi Arabia and [Iraqi Deputy Premier] Tariq 'Aziz's successful Paris visit, which linked economic interests with political interests. Despite their vagueness, Cheysson's recent statement pictured the situation as though it had been reversed.

In this vacuum, no Arab side can make any decision. In such a political vacuum the state of no war, no peace is the only winning card.

[Radio announcer] In short, if the state of no war, no peace continues to dominate who will be the big loser?

[Khalid al-Hasan] There is no big loser, because this is a temporary situation. Perhaps, I should mention that our kinfolk's uprising in the West Bank -- although it began before the Fes summit and this state of vacuum, it is now more intensive -- is an expression of the will of the Palestinian people, whom they wanted to be the big loser here. The uprising says that in the end the political vacuum will be filled by the Palestinian struggle until the world comes to its senses and supports the objectives of the Palestinian people.

[Radio announcer] Thank you Khalid al-Hasan.

VOP ON U.S. 'PROVOCATIVE STEPS' AGAINST LIBYA

JN121131 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Dec 81

[From the "With the Events" program]

[Text] The United States has escalated its provocative steps against the Libyan Jamahiriyah. After a series of meetings held by the U.S. National Security Council under Reagan, the U.S. President called on all Americans in Libya, 1,500 persons, to leave Libya as soon as possible. He also decided to prevent Americans from travelling to Libya.

Washington reports say that some U.S. congressional groups are studying the possibility of submitting draft resolutions on preventing U.S. companies from working in Libya, in addition to the possibility of imposing an economic siege on Libya.

These provocative U.S. steps against Libya come only 1 week after the tendentious accusations disseminated by the U.S. administration and press to the effect that there are armed Libyan groups in the United States which aim to assassinate the U.S. President and other White House officials. These accusations, behind which the Zionist propaganda organs stand, claimed that these groups include Libyans, Palestinians, Iranians and East Germans.

Replying to these accusations, JANA said: The tendentious U.S. propaganda exercised by Reagan's administration against Libya has been completely unveiled. It added that the aim behind this propaganda is to prepare for a U.S. invasion of Libya.

This provocative U.S. campaign against Libya is part of the general strategy of Reagan's administration in the Middle East, which is based on striking and [word indistinct] the national Arab forces at a time when Washington is devoting all its efforts to making the Camp David accords successful and to interfering in Lebanon's affairs in the interest of the Zionist entity.

These U.S. stands are the natural result of the deteriorating Arab situation. Moreover, the results of the Fes summit encouraged all the imperialist forces to (?single out) every Arab state so as to tighten their grip over the entire region. The Arab states, which paid no attention to the U.S. and Zionist dangers threatening them for over 1 year and which have not taken any step to stop the all-out U.S.-Zionist defiance of the Arab nation, encouraged the imperialist forces to seize every possible opportunity to deal further blows to the Arab liberation movement.

We are witnessing an imperialist-Zionist offensive in all sectors, including the political and military sectors. The Arab states have to create the militant circumstances and means to bolster the forces of steadfastness and confrontation in the Arab world.

'ARAFAT TO SEEK MEETING ON SINAI WITHDRAWAL

NC141052 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] affirmed that the PLO seeks an extraordinary meeting of Arab foreign ministers before the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai next April. He again warned against the accordion plan and repeated his expectations of assassination and bombing operations and of pressures against the Syrian presence in Lebanon.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said this in a meeting with Arab news agencies in Beirut during which he expressed regret about incidents which occurred recently in Lebanon after successful measures taken by the Lebanese National Movement. He especially referred to the assassination of Palestine National Council member 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Kayyali in Beirut and to recent Tripoli incidents. He also referred to his announcement about the accordion plan, which depends on blowing up the situation from inside Lebanon and also on Israel's attacks on the resistance.

He spoke of the mission of the two U.S. envoys Philip Habib and Morris Draper. He said: They carried a three-point plan -- one: to oust the Syrians from Lebanon the first stage of this being their withdrawal to Al-Biqa'; two: to stop arming the resistance and grouping its forces in Mount Hermon; and three: to increase the UNIFIL strength and to expand their area in the south.

In answer to a QNA question on the post-Fes conference situation, 'Arafat said the PLO plans to hold many contacts with the Arabs, to hold an extraordinary meeting of the Arab foreign ministers before next April -- the time of the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai -- so that the Arabs will not be surprised by a fait accompli.

He added: The purpose of this meeting will be to make an Arab plan to cope with the situation after the Israeli withdrawal. He pointed out that it will not be easy to make this plan, as it requires many contacts, but that work in this direction has actually begun and the PLO is determined to hold a meeting of the Arab foreign ministers.

Brother Abu 'Ammar warned that the Arab states should not go to the next conference of the nonaligned states without the minimum degree of solidarity. He pointed to the victory of the Arabs at the Nonaligned Conference in Havana, which decided that Zionism is a kind of racism.

On the European stand on the statements of French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson, Brother Abu 'Ammar said he thinks something can be done on the level of the Arab League and that contact has been made with Secretary General Chedli Klibi and with sides affecting the French side in Algeria.

He affirmed that his visit to Greece today, Monday, could be the first occasion to reply to the French stand. He praised the very solid stand of Athens, which makes it necessary for the Arabs to give sympathy, backing and appreciation.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC CONDEMNS SABOTAGE ATTEMPT IN BAHRAIN

GF141810 Manama Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] The Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] has condemned the sabotage attempt against the state of Bahrain by certain individuals -- an attempt to undermine the stability of Bahrain and the countries of the region.

In a statement today commenting on the incident, GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah said: This attempt is a flagrant interference in Bahrain's affairs intended to create disturbances and anarchy -- and this serves foreign powers at the expense of the region's interests.

Bisharah emphasized that the GCC, which is a basic element of stability, cannot disregard such behavior, which a violation of the sovereignty of a GCC member. He said that this action is a defiance of the will of the peoples of the Gulf who seek to pursue an independent policy free of foreign influence.

BAHRAIN

FURTHER ON ARREST OF IRANIAN SABOTEURS

Responsibility Claimed

GF142026 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2013 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Manama, 14 Dec (WAKH) -- The GULF NEWS AGENCY has learned that five armed men presented a written memorandum to the Bahraini Embassy in Tehran this morning in which they claimed responsibility for the group which was arrested in Bahrain. In their memorandum, the armed men also called on the Bahraini Government to immediately release the saboteurs.

The Bahraini Embassy asked the Iranian authorities to increase the security measures around the embassy building.

Interrogation Continues

GF150905 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 15 Dec 81 p 1

[Excerpt] AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ has learned that the interrogation of the recently-arrested members of the sabotage network is still underway. The members of the network have admitted receiving special training in Iran and have described their weapons training. Weapons experts said that the types of weapons described by the network members meet the specification of Israeli weapons.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ has learned that senior Interior Ministry officials of all the Arab Gulf countries have contacted the Bahraini Interior Ministry. They have declared their support for the measures taken against the saboteurs, condemned Iranian interference and expressed their support for Bahrain. They have also asserted that any infringement of Bahrain's security is an infringement of the security of the other Gulf countries and a threat to the region's stability.

GULF DAILY NEWS Editorial

GF140944 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 14 Dec 81 p 1

[Editorial]

[Text] Bahrain is a peaceful and prosperous nation. Even so, this unacceptable criminal act was not unexpected, emanating from a country which has become a society of lawlessness.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has, from the beginning, not hesitated in blackening the name of Islam. By killing thousands of its own people, by involving itself in a war with a neighboring country, by destorying every aspect of civilized life within its borders, by closing the colleges and universities from the day the mullahs took power, and by openly flouting international diplomatic conventions, it has shown its true bent.

Now it has sent its minions to kill, to destroy the peace and prosperity of Bahrain -- a nation notable for its harmony and tranquillity.

Bahrain as a nation, Bahrain as a people, Bahrain as a land, is not used to such criminal acts. It cannot tolerate such evil and must defend itself and its citizens as best it can.

It is now time for all neighboring states to restudy and re-evaluate their relations with the people who say they govern in Tehran.

The insurgents held in Bahrain must have a fair trial, for that is the legacy of this island. But if they are proclaimed guilty, the sword of justice must be true...and it must be sharp.

KUWAIT

ISRAELI DECISION ON GOLAN HEIGHTS DENOUNCED

LD150834 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0754 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Dec (KUNA) -- Kuwait today condemned Israel's decision yesterday to officially annex the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and called on world states and organizations to put a halt to Israeli "disdain" for international values.

Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn told journalists that Israeli decision "contravenes all international norms, challenges world opinion, contradicts all resolutions by international conferences and organizations and demonstrates the expansionist nature and opportunist policies of the enemy, and his opportunist policies."

He added that "Kuwait calls on all states and organizations, especially those which back Israel, to take an effective stand and to adopt decisive measures to put a halt to this disdain for international values, principles and norms.

OFFICIAL REGRETS U.S. EXTRADITION OF ABU 'AYN

LD140748 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1305 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] Kuwait, 13 Dec (KUNA) -- Today Kuwait expressed its regret over and denunciation of the American decision to hand over the Palestinian citizen, Ziyad Abu 'Ayn, to the Israeli occupation authorities.

The minister of state for Cabinet affairs, 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, said today in reply to a question: "We have heard with much regret and pain of America's sudden decision to hand over the Arab compatriot Ziyad Abu 'Ayn to the Israeli authorities despite the continuing endeavors of the American administration to take the Arab viewpoint into consideration.

The minister added that the issue is not only that of a citizen but also that of a principle "and we hoped the American adminstration would listen to an Arab consensus through the intense meetings that took place with our ambassadors in the United States regarding the case of this Palestinian citizen."

OIL PRICE REDUCTION TO TAKE EFFECT IN JAN

LD141324 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1235 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Dec (KUNA) -- The oil affairs minister, Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Adhbi has announced that Kuwait has reduced the price of its oil by 70 cents per barrel. This makes the price of a barrel of oil $(?32.40), which is a $1.70 differential in the basic Arab light crude price.

The minister told newsmen here today that the new price will apply from the beginning of the new year.

The Kuwaiti oil price reduction comes within the implementation of the decisions of the OPEC ministers at their meeting held on 9 December in Abu Dhabi on the question of price differentials.

LIQUID GAS PRICE REDUCED BY 6.4 PERCENT

LD141326 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1240 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Dec (KUNA) -- Authorized oil sources here stated today that Kuwait has reduced the price of its liquid gas once again by 6.4 percent and now the average price per ton is $241.50.

The sources told the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY that the new price will be applied retroactively as of 1 December and it is $16.30 less than the previous price.

The sources said that the price of propane gas has dropped by $30 and now stands at $228 instead of $258 whereas the price of butane gas maintained a price of $258 per ton.

The sources attributed the reasons for the reduction to the general decline in the prices of oil and gas products in the international markets.

QATAR

IRANIAN SABOTAGE ATTEMPT, POW EXECUTION ASSAILED

GF150415 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1932 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Excerpt] Doha, 14 Dec (WAKH) -- Qatar has denounced the recent execution of 1,500 Iraqi POW's by the Iranian authorities. It has also denounced the acts of spreading confusion and terror in Bahrain.

An official source at the Quatari Foreign Ministry announced this evening that Qatar -- after learning of the execution of 1,500 Iraqi POW's -- can only condemn this act. It is an irresponsible violation of our Islamic religious and moral principles, which forbid killing POW's. It is also a blatant violation of international agreements and regulations between belligerents, particularly the Geneva Convention on the Treatment of POW's and the agreement on combatting the annihilation of the human race and the sanctions against it.

The source referred to the arrest of a group of saboteurs who wanted to spread confusion and consternation in Bahrain and expressed Qatar's great surprise over such acts.

The source affirmed Qatar's support for fraternal Bahrain in preventing anything that might disturb its security and stability, "which are linked with the security and stability of the people in the region."

FRENCH ENVOY SUMMONED ON CHEYSSON REMARKS

GF121420 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1245 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] 12 Dec (WAKH) -- Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani today summoned French Ambassador Henri Piot and asked him to clarify remarks made by French Minister of External Relations Calude Cheysson during his recent visit to Israel.

An official source at the Foreign Ministry said Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani asked the French ambassador to supply the Qatari Foreign Ministry with the full text of these remarks. In a statement to QNA, the source said that this step is in line with Qatar's policy of following up on the stands of friendly countries and statements made by their officials on the Palestinian question.

SAUDI ARABIA

MINISTERS CONDEMN ANNEXATION OF GOLAN HEIGHTS

LD142258 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2050 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Excerpt] [Passage indistinct] His Excellency the Minister of Information Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani said the Council of Ministers discussed the Israeli decision to apply Israeli law to the occupied Syrian Golan Heights in preparation for annexation to Israel. The Council confirmed its total condemnation of this illegal measure which violates all international laws and traditions and confirms the Israeli intention of continuing to colonize Arab lands occupied by Israel [words indistinct]

The Council urged the Arab nation to unite to face this serious (?challenge). The Council also urged the countries of the world to confront this arbitrary [word indistinct] and totally reject it and expose the Israeli expansionist plans within the context of its colonialist settlement. The Council confirmed the Kingdom's support for fraternal Syria.

INTERIOR MINISTER DENOUNCES 'IRANIAN PLOT'

LD141514 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of interior, has commented on the Bahraini Ministry of Interior's statement on the foiling of an Iranian plot to assassinate high officials in the Gulf countries. His highness said: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia considers the security of Bahrain and of the Gulf countries the security of the Kingdom; it stands by the brothers in Bahrain and all brothers in the Gulf against such acts, and it stresses its stand with all its capabilities by the side of brothers. According to the evidence we have, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is undoubtedly one of the targeted countries for such acts by the Iranian Government. In stressing this stance of ours, we denounce the occurence of such acts by a neighboring country which should have been cooperating with all in maintaining security in the area and not be misleading some of its delusioned sons and forcing them to disturb the security of their homelands. The Iranian Government also ought to put an end to such irresponsible acts which are undoubtedly contrary to the security of the Arab and Islamic peoples. God is the guide to the right path.

UAE

NATION SUPPORTS BAHRAIN AGAINST SECURITY THREATS

GF141629 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] The UAE has emphasized that Bahrain's security is indivisable from UAE security and that the UAE stands alongside Bahrain in the face of everything that disturbs its security and threatens its sovereignty.

This came in a statement made by an official source commenting on the announcement by the State of Bahrain yesterday on the arrest of armed groups to sabotage installations and assassinate Bahraini officials.

DEPUTY PREMIER RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM 'ARAFAT

GF141702 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 14 Dec 81 p 1

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Maktum ibn Rashid, UAE deputy prime minister and Dubayy heir apparent, has received a written message from Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, during his meeting with Ribhi 'Awad, PLO representative in the UAE, at (Zughbayl) palace yesterday morning.

Shaykh Maktum ibn Rashid was apprised of the various sides of the Palestinian stand and showed a strong interest in the latest developments on the Palestinian side and the recent Israeli threats to launch a new aggression in southern Lebanon. His highness also lauded the uprising the occupied Palestinian lands are witnessing against the Zionist occupation's authorities.

YAR

'SOURCE' CONDEMNS EXECUTION OF IRAQI POW'S

JN111806 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Text] A responsible Foreign Ministry source has stated the following:

The YAR has received with great sorrow and pain the news of the execution of 1500 Iraqi POW's by the Iranian authorities the day before yesterday.

Since we denounce and condemn this irresponsible aggressive measures, which we consider a blatant violation of the esteemed principles and values of our true Islamic religion, which categorically forbids the killing of captives, and since we consider this -- which constitutes a clear violation of all international accords and norms -- as contempt of all the rules of treatment during war as defined by Islam, we reconfirm our principles national and Islamic support for and solidarity with the fraternal Iraqi people and their national leadership in confronting such aggressive measures which have exposed the real hidden grudges of the ruling authorities in Iran toward our Arab and Islamic nation.

The source stressed that after all, the authorities in Iran are being held responsible in front of God, the Islamic nation and mankind for continuing this losing and destructive war between the two Muslim peoples in Iraq and Iran.

The source considered the Iranian authorities' killing of the captives as a serious escalation of this war [words indistinct] and the stability of the Iranian people as well as the Arab and Muslim people.

The source appealed to the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization and the United Nations to take an urgent stand on this inhuman measure.

In conclusion, the source said: We appeal to the Arab and Islamic public opinions to adopt a firm and responsible stand on these aggressive Iranian measures and on this serious escalation of the ongoing war.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SCORES ABU 'AYN EXTRADITION

JN141343 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] A responsible Foreign Ministry source today stated the following:

The Government of the Yemen Arab Republic has been taken by surprise by the U.S. Government's decision to extradite the Palestinian struggler Ziyad Abu 'Ayn to the Zionist occupation authorities. The YAR Government deplores and condemns this U.S. action which is not commensurate with its international obligations as a superpower, and is of the opinion that this action is clear disregard of the Arab appeals, a complete bias in favor of the Zionist enemy and fresh proof of the extent to which the U.S. administration is subjected to Zionist pressures.

The YAR Government regards the U.S. administration's act as unjust and inhuman, a hostile action against the Arab nation and a contribution toward increasing tension in the region that might lead to a serious threat to peace. The YAR Government calls on all states and international organizations to denounce and condemn this act because it violates international charters and conventions.

NATION EXEMPTED FROM REPAYMENT OF SOVIET DEBT

PM111439 Paris AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI in Arabic 6-12 Dec 81 p 17

[Unattributed report: "North Yemen: Moscow Exemption, Riyadh Aid"]

[Text] According to informed Arab sources, the Soviet Union has exempted North Yemen from the repayment of a $265 million loan received by San'a' in the form of arms and ammunition.

The Soviet decision was made during President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's visit to Moscow early last month.

The North Yemen president has requested $1 billion from Saudi Arabia to pay for new Soviet arms and finance construction projects.

According to the same sources, Saudi Arabia has not agreed, and negotiations are currently underway to reduce the figure.

REPORTAGE ON ISRAELI ANNEXATION OF GOLAN

'Ali Summons Sasson

NC141912 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1854 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has summoned Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Moshe Sasson to inform him of Egypt's denunciation of the Israeli Government's decision, as reported by news agencies, to annex the Golan -- an action which is considered a blow directed at the peace efforts and the UN Security Council resolutions on which the Camp David accords are built.

After the meeting, the Israeli ambassador said that Kamal Hasan 'Ali informed him of the Arab Republic of Egypt's statement which contains its view on the Israeli decision on the Golan. He added that he will convey Egypt's point of view to his government.

'Ali, Atherton Meet

NC141915 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1857 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today summoned U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Alfred Atherton to convey to him Egypt's stance on reports by news agencies regarding the Israeli Government's decision to apply Israeli legislation in the Golan, a matter which is considered a blatant violation of the contents of the Middle East peace framework and the Security Council's resolutions, upon which the Camp David agreements are based.

Following the meeting, the U.S. ambassador said that 'Ali conveyed to him Egypt's opinion on this Israeli decision. Atherton added that he conveyed to 'Ali the U.S. official spokesman's remarks in this regard. He further said that 'Ali has asked him to communicate Egypt's stand to the U.S. Government and that he will immediately do that.

'Ali on Decision

NC141946 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1928 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that the decision by the Israeli Government to apply Israeli legislation in the Golan territory is considered a blatant violation of the contents of the Middle East framework which was signed on 17 September 1979 and a violation of provisions in international law and of Security Council resolutions on which the Camp David agreements are based. In a press statement tonight, 'Ali said that Egypt rejects this Israeli measure, considers it illegal and does not recognize its consequences.

'Ali added: I conveyed our official opinion tonight to the ambassadors of the United States and Israel in Cairo to communicate to their governments.

'Ali added that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has begun contacts with the various states concerned with peace in the Middle East and that Egypt hopes that the Israeli Knesset will not adopt a decision annexing the Golan because this would constitute an obstacle to peace.

'Ali further said: The Golan is Syrian Arab territory occupied by Israel. If Syria were to participate in the negotiations process in the future, what would they discuss aside from the restoration of Golan land and nothing else?

MENA has learned that U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Alfred Atherton conveyed to Kamal Hasan 'Ali the stand of the U.S. Government on the Israeli decision and informed him that the U.S. stand conforms fully with the Egyptian view that this measure is illegal and rejected and that it conflicts with international resolutions and with the spirit and letter of Camp David, international law, and Security Council Resolution No 242.

MENA has also learned that it was President Muhammad Husni Mubarak who gave directions this afternoon to summon the U.S. and Israeli ambassadors to convey to them Egypt's stand rejecting the Israeli Government's decision, to communicate this to the world states and to hold contacts and consultations to consider what must be done to counter the Israeli measure.

Tonight, Kamal Hasan 'Ali sent the text of the official statement of the Arab Republic of Egypt on the Israeli Government's decision to Egypt's permanent UN Delegate Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and to all of Egypt's embassies abroad for communication to the governments of the states they are accredited to.

Foreign Ministry Statement

NC141907 Cairo MENA in English 1850 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA) -- Egypt declared today that the application of Israel civil legislation in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights is a frank violation of the framework of Middle East peace signed on September 17, 1979, and the UN Security Council resolutions on which the Camp David agreements were based.

This statement was issued by the Foreign Ministry spokesman in comment on news agency reports attributed to Israel radio concerning the application of Israeli legislation to the Golan Heights.

The text of the statement follows:

"The Israeli Government's decision to apply Israeli legislation on the Golan Heights, reported by news agencies and attributed to Israel radio, constitutes a frank violation of the framework of Middle East peace concluded on September 17, 1979, and the UN Security Council resolution on which the Camp David agreements were built.

"It also amounts to a blow to the peace efforts and intensifies the elements of tension in the area, which Egypt is always endeavouring to eliminate with the purpose of creating the proper climate for reaching a comprehensive, just and durable peace.

"Egypt considers that the Israeli Government's decision infringes on international law and defies world public opinion. Egypt declares its categorical rejection of the measure as null and void and illegal, and proclaims that it does not recognize any result emanating therefrom, and that it conflicts with the spirit of peace in the area. It calls on the international community represented in the United Nations to assume its responsibilities towards peace, especially in discussing the issue at the current UN General Assembly debate on the Middle East.

"Egypt draws the attention of peace-loving elements in Israel and throughout the world to the necessity of checking these measures which threaten the future of peace and co-existence among the peoples and states of the area."

The Egyptian Government has begun the necessary contacts and consultations with friendly countries interested in the issue of Middle East peace to discuss the measures that should be taken in face of the Israeli measures.

COMMUNIQUE: OVER 1,600 IRANIANS KILLED 13-14 DEC

JN141720 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Communique No 552 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 14 December 1981]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With honor and glory, history and coming generations will remember these brave men and glorious sons of the Tigris and the Euphrates Rivers who are valiantly fighting the forces of the rancorous regime in Iran for the rights and glory of Iraq and the glorious Arab nation. The outcome of the military activities in the operational sectors last night and today was as follows:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Our capable units continued to press hard and pursue the routed enemy forces in the Gilan-e Gharb and Sumar regions, dealing painful blows to the enemy forces for the 4th consecutive day of fierce battles and inflicting on them heavy losses in lives and equipment. Known enemy losses counted by competent quarters as of the drafting of this communique amounted to well over 1,600 killed; 12 tanks, 14 vehicles, 7 carrying soldiers and 3 loaded with hardware, and 7 guns destroyed; and 1 enemy helicopter shot down by our ground defenses.

B. One of our forward units raided enemy personnel concentrations in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region and engaged them with various weapons, killing 24 and seizing a quantity of serviceable equipment and light weapons. The enemy also lost 17 killed and 1 tank, 1 personnel carrier, 1 gun, 3 excavators and 1 stockpile of hardware in the same region.

C. Nine were killed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.

D. Four were killed and one vehicle and one observation post were destroyed in the Abadan region.

E. Four were killed in the Nowsud region and three were killed in the Shush region.

F. Four vehicles and one observation post were destroyed in the Dezful region.

G. One gun was destroyed in the Meharan region.

H. The aircraft of our valiant air force continued their daring raids today on enemy positions and concentrations in the southern sector of the operational theater, scoring direct and effective hits before returning safely to base.

I. At 1215 today, enemy aircraft tried to infiltrate the Basra region aiming at residential areas. Our air defenses repulsed them and forced them to flee. Our losses were 13 wounded civilians.

Thus, the total known enemy losses amount to more than 1,661 killed; 13 tanks, 1 personnel carrier, 19 vehicles, 3 excavators, 9 guns, 1 stockpile of hardware and 2 observation posts destroyed; and 1 helicopter shot down.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 41 martyrs in all sectors.

B. In equipment: One vehicle damaged.

HEALTH MINISTER CONTACTS RED CROSS ON POW'S

JN111239 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA) -- The Iraqi Red Crescent [IRC] has urged the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] and the League of Red Cross Societies [LRCS] to immediately intervene to protect the remaining Iraqi POW's in Iran and to send representatives to investigate their conditions and safety.

IRC Chairman Dr Riyad Ibrahim Husayn has conveyed the true image of the ugly crime perpetrated by the Iranian authorities when they killed Iraqi soldiers taken captive during the battles raging between the two countries since September 1980.

This came during telephone and cable contacts Dr Husayn had today with the ICRC and LRCS presidents, the Human Rights Committee chairman, the secretary general of the Arab Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the presidents of all the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the Islamic and nonaligned states. Dr Riyad reiterated Iraq's commitment to the international and humanitarian charters and the Geneva Convention as well as to the humane treatment of Iranian POW's, prompted in this by noble Arab ethics and the principles of the Islamic religion.

During his contacts, Dr Riyad said that the IRC will continue to provide every facility, as it has since the first days of the war, to ICRC representatives investigating the condition of Iranian POW's in Iraq.

KUWAITI ENVOY DEPARTS AFTER CONVEYING MESSAGE

JN091202 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Dec (INA) -- 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, Kuwaiti minister of state for Cabinet affairs and envoy of Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah to President Saddam Husayn, left Baghdad for home at noon today. He told INA that he conveyed a verbal message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother Shaykh as-Sabah on Arab issues and cooperation between the two fraternal countries. He added: President Saddam Husayn gave me a reply message to his brother Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah. I sensed President Saddam's interest in all the topics contained in the Kuwaiti amir's message.

The Kuwaiti minister was seen off at the airport by Iraqi Finance Minister Thamir Razuqi and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Baghdad.

SOVIET MINISTER BAKHIREV ENDS 5-DAY VISIT

JN110808 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA) -- Soviet Machine-Building Minister Bakhirev and his delegation left Baghdad today at the end of a 5-day visit to Iraq. Bakhirev expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of his talks with Iraqi officials, adding that these talks were held in an atmosphere of amity and understanding and contributed to strengthening the ties of friendship between the two countries.

ROMANIAN PRIME MINISTER CONTINUES VISIT

Official Talks Held

JN091752 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] The first round of official talks between Iraq and Romania began in Baghdad this morning. The Iraqi side is headed by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister, and comprises Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and industry minister; Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs; the under secretaries of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Trade, Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, and Industry and Minerals as well as several officials in these ministries, Ministries of Culture and Information, Transportation and Communications, Public Works and Housing, Oil and the External Economic Relations Committee.

The Romanian side is headed by Romanian Prime Minister Ilie Verdet and comprises Ion Dinca, first deputy prime minister; Ion Stanescu, head of the Department for Construction Abroad; Aurel Duma, minister secretary of state at the Foreign Ministry; and other officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and International Economic Cooperation, Machine-Building Industry, Agriculture and the Food Industry and Light Industry; and the Romanian ambassador in Baghdad.

At the beginning of the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan welcomed the Romanian delegation, stressing that its visit to Iraq, particularly at this time, will provide an opportunity to strengthen friendship and good relations between the two countries, the bases and general framework of which were formulated by President Saddam Husayn and Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the Romanian Council of State, who stressed the importance of promoting cooperation between Iraq and Romania in all fields.

Ramadan also praised the results of the visit he had made to Romania and stressed the sincere desire to promote bilateral relations. He added that consultations and successive meetings at all levels will contribute to promoting relations between the two countries. Taha Yasin Ramadan said that Iraq is working to entrench the basic principles which will develop bilateral relations.

Ilie Verdet expressed thanks for the invitation to visit Iraq and for the warm welcome he was accorded. He said: During this visit to Iraq, we shall convey our best wishes and our sincere desire to work for consolidating what has been achieved so far and to give new dimensions to bilateral cooperation.

He said that what has been achieved at all levels is based on the principles of equal rights, respect for independence and national sovereignty and noninterference in domestic affairs. The Romanian prime minister praised the role Saddam Husayn and Nicolae Ceausescu are assuming to entrench the principles and bases of these relations. He expressed his country's appreciation for the good relations that exist with Iraq and the desire to promote and expand them in international relations and the Nonaligned Movement, and the support for developing countries to enable them to assume their effective role of establishing a new economic and political order.

Ilie Verdet expressed his country's satisfaction over the election of Iraq to the Presidency of the current UN General Assembly session.

Afterward, the Iraqi-Romanian committee met under Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister; and Ion Dinca, Romanian first deputy prime minister. During the meeting, the two sides discussed economic, trade, technical and technological issues between the two countries. Several specialized committees were formed to discuss cooperation in industry, agriculture, trade and irrigation and ways of promoting it between the two friendly countries.

The two countries expressed satisfaction over the development of Iraqi-Romanian relations. The two sides will sign minutes for joint cooperation at the end of the current session of the Iraqi-Romanian committee.

Duma Meets Assembly Speaker

JN101739 Baghdad INA in English 1720 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA) -- Speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly Na'im Haddad Thursday met with the Romanian minister of state for foreign affairs, Aurel Duma, who is in Baghdad accompanying Romanian Premier Ilie Verdet.

The current advanced relations between Iraq and Romania in different fields and relations between the Iraqi National Assembly and the Romanian Grand National Assembly as well as between the Iraqi National and Progressive Front and the Romanian Front of Socialist Democracy and Unity were discussed.

Mr Haddad reviewed Iraq's policy on the Arab and international arenas and the leading role played by the July 19 revolution led by the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party in building the new Iraq. He also spoke about the Persian aggression on Iraq and its continuation of war despite Iraq's several calls for ending it peacefully.

Mr Duma expressed his appreciation of the great renaissance witnessed by Iraq and stressed his country's principled and unchangeable stand to achieve the deepest relations and cooperation with Iraq.

Duma Confers With Hammadi

JN101303 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA) -- Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi met here today with Romanian Minister Secretary of State Aurel Duma. Discussions during the meeting dealt with relations of friendship between Iraq and Romania and means to develop these relations in the service of the two peoples. The two sides also exchanged views on the Nonaligned Movement's activities and issues of mutual interest.

It is to be recalled that the Romanian minister is a member of the delegation accompanying the Romanian prime minister.

Press Statement Issued

JN111938 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA) -- Iraq and Romania have asserted that just and lasting peace cannot be accomplished in the Middle East without the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from all the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's national rights, including their rights to self-determination, return to their land and establishment of an independent state.

In a press statement issued here this evening at the conclusion of Romanian Prime Minister Ilie Verdet's visit to Iraq, the Romanian side reiterated its strong condemnation of the Israeli aggression against Iraqi nuclear installation, stressing that this unjustified violation constitutes a dangerous precedent.

The two sides expressed concern over the escalation of world tension resulting from the increasing adoption of a policy of intervention, hegemony and division of spheres of influence; the escalating arms race; the expansion of economic crises; and the widening of gaps between rich and poor countries. They underlined the growing determination of peoples to uphold their rights and will to end the policy of hegemony and for free and independent progress and development in harmony with their legitimate aspirations.

Both sides emphasized the importance of security and stability in the Arab Gulf and, consequently, for the need to keep this region free of spheres of influence and foreign intervention. The Iraqi side explained the situation in the Arab Gulf, the causes of the confrontation with Iran and the development of the conflict with it.

The Romanian side expressed strong concern regarding the continuation of the conflict between the two neighborly countries. It underlined the urgent and persistent need for ending the state of confrontation between them. It also stressed its support for the efforts on various international levels to affect a cease-fire and reach a peaceful settlement to the current differences through negotiations in the interest of the two countries and world peace and security.

Both sides expressed their governments' wish to further promote the good relations of cooperation and coordination between them and to consolidate these relations within the framework of the United Nations, the Group of 77, the Nonaligned Movement and other international organizations and bodies.

The two sides asserted that the promotion of friendship and cooperation between them has been epitomized by the contacts and discussions between President Saddam Husayn and President Nicolae Ceausescu.

Both sides expressed confidence that the seventh nonaligned summit conference, to be held in Baghdad, will make an important contribution to ameliorating the international climate and will enhance the role of the Nonaligned Movement.

The press statement said that at the end of the visit, a protocol was signed on expanding trade between the two countries and promoting economic cooperation. An agreement for cooperation in the field of tourism, and an understanding for cooperation between the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY and the Romanian news agency and several trade contracts were also signed.

Delegation Leaves for Home

JN112119 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2045 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA) -- Romanian Prime Minister Ilie Verdet and his delegation left Baghdad for home this evening following a 4-day visit to Iraq. He described his talks in Baghdad as successful, saying: Our visit culminated with the achievements and results we expected. We achieved the objectives of the visit and took another step forward in promoting relations between Romania and Iraq. We will seek to implement the provisions of the agreements signed during the visit and, under the guidance of Presidents Saddam Husayn and Nicolae Ceausescu, we will seek to promote our bilateral relations in all fields. My meeting with President Saddam Husayn will play an important role in strengthening relations in all fields, he added.

The delegation was accorded an official sendoff led by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, and several other officials.

SPANISH CP LEADER SANTIAGO CARRILLO PAYS VISIT

JN112047 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA) -- Santiago Carrillo, secretary general of the Spanish Communist Party, arrived here this evening on a visit of several days at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command. Carrillo expressed pleasure at visiting Iraq and said relations between his party and the Ba'th Party are close and good. He added: We are visiting Iraq to proclaim our support for the just war Iraq is waging against Iran.

Meets President Husayn

JN131216 Baghdad INA in English 1120 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn last night met the visiting Secretary-General of the Spanish Communist Party Mr Santiago Carrillo. Talks at the meeting focused on the good ties between the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party [ABSP] and the Spanish Communist Party and Iraq's way of socialism and its role in backing world liberation movements.

Mr Carrillo expressed his full solidarity with Iraq in building up its socialist experiment and in its defence of its territorial and offshore rights against Persia's aggression.

The meeting was attended by Mr Tariq 'Aziz, pan-Arab member of the ABSP, in charge of its Foreign Relations Bureau.

Received by 'Aflaq

JN131229 Baghdad INA in English 1140 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA) -- Secretary General of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party (ABSP), Michel 'Aflaq Saturday met with the secretary general of the Spanish Communist Party (PCE), Santiago Carrillo Solares.

Mr 'Aflaq warmly welcomed Mr Carrillo and expressed pleasure for the friendly relations existing between the ABSP and the PCE as well as for the frankness and courage of Mr Carrillo in the endeavour to give breath to the life of European socialism and stressed the path of independence and socialism is the path of the future.

Touching upon the Iraq-Iran war, Mr 'Aflaq said the imposed war on Iraq has been an attempt to kill the young revolution in Iraq and extinguish its flames. At the same time, the big powers want to weaken and keep Iraq away from the basic issue, Palestine, but this calculation could not come true because Iraq fights in his name and on behalf of the Arab nation and for their mutual interest. The war could not divert Iraq's attention from the issue of liberating Palestine.

Mr 'Aflaq described the current crimes committed by the Iranian regime as horrible and said Khomeyni stole the revolution of the people and exploited the sacrifices of its democratic and socialist organizations during the shah's reign. He stressed that the future will be for the Iranian opposition movement which combined between progress and the keeping of heritage while facing now oppression.

Referring to As-Sadat's murder, Mr 'Aflaq said it is in fact the murder of the Camp David accords and any similar alternatives.

The secretary general of the PCE expressed pleasure for visiting Baghdad for the second time and said the relations between the ABSP and the PCE were not tactical but strategical and a matter of principles.

He described his visit as an expression of solidarity with the ABSP and praised the courageous struggle of the ABSP against imperialism and Zionism for the sake of preserving the policy of independence and socialism.

Talking about the Iranian regime, Mr Carrillo said it represents the return to backwardness and to the Middle Ages where the shah has been replaced by Khomeyni to confront the progressive trend.

As to the Iraq-Iran war, Mr Carrillo said the big powers intended to weaken Iraq's revolution and expressed hope that Iran would emerge victorious and achieve its objectives.

The meeting was also attended by members of the ABSP pan-Arab leadership, Tariq 'Aziz, in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau and Badr ad-Din Muddathar.

Leaves for Home

JN140842 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Dec (INA) -- Comrade Santiago Carrillo, secretary general of the Spanish Communist Party [PCE], and his delegation left Baghdad for home at the end of a 3-day visit to Iraq at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command. Comrade Carrillo was seen off at the airport by Comrade Tariq 'Aziz, National Command member and official in charge of the Foreign Relations Office; a number of National Command members; and the Spanish ambassador in Baghdad.

In a predeparture statement, Comrade Santiago Carrillo expressed his pleasure and satisfaction with the outcome of his visit to Iraq, adding that his visit had enabled him to familiarize himself with the farsightedness and practical approach of President Saddam Husayn, the revolutionary leader. He praised Iraq's continued aid to world liberation movements and the peoples' struggle for the sake of freedom, independence and development.

He said an agreement had been reached to support the developed relations and political stands between the Ba'th Party and the PCE to serve their joint struggle against colonialism. Comrade Carrillo described his contacts with the National Command's comades as important, adding that they would contribute to supporting the political struggle experiment in the world.

The PCE secretary general praised the high spirit enjoyed by our hero fighters on the battlefronts as they wage battles of honor and dignity against the racist Persian enemy to regain Iraq's rights in its land and waters. He said he was deeply impressed by his visit to one of the battlefield sectors and his meetings with the hero officers.

He added: Today I visited a town in one of the sectors which the Iranian regime and the Zionist and imperialist media claimed has fallen into Iranian hands. However, I saw only the Iraqi Army although I travelled for several kilometers in the town. This, he added, is unequivocal evidence refuting the lies and propaganda of imperialism and Zionism.

In conclusion, Comrade Carrillo said that strong Iraq under President Saddam Husayn is defending its land and waters and that all Iraq is doing is ensuring recognition of its historical and legitimate rights and the achievement of peace and security in the area and the world at large.

'IZZAT IBRAHIM OPENS NONALIGNED MINISTERS MEETING

JN121340 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Excerpts] 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman, opened the second conference of the labor ministers of the Nonaligned Movement and the other developing states this morning on behalf of President Saddam Husayn. The conference will last 5 days.

The RCC vice chairman delivered a speech, which he began by welcoming the conferees on behalf of President Saddam Husayn and wishing the conference success in achieving its goals in bolstering the effective and distinguished role of the Nonaligned Movement, deepening cooperation among its peoples and stressing these peoples' right to independence and liberation.

He added: Our stand on the war with Iran and our feeling that this war should not continue and should not even have started was an expression of our principled stand which stems from our appreciation of the historic responsibility we are shouldering toward our people and the peoples of both the region and world. He added that, throughout the early months of the war, Iraq always expressed its readiness to put an end to it, thus cooperating positively and sincerely with all the calls and initiatives undertaken by the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic Conference Organization and the UN secretary general's envoy. Meanwhile, he said, the Iranian regime persisted in its intransigence and insistence on continuing the war.

The RCC vice chairman added: Although a long time has passed since this war began, for whose continuation and eruption Iran is to blame, we are still ready to reach a peaceful and just settlement that guarantees the sovereignty and legitimate rights of all sides, nonintervention in others' domestic affairs and the right of every side to choose the appropriate road for its progress and development. The RCC vice chairman then reviewed the spendid achievements made by Iraq since the inception of the 17 July revolution under the Ba'th Party in labor, social security and social affairs.

FURTHER ON U.S. DECISION TO EXTRADITE ABU 'AYN

Al-Qasim Message to Haig

JN141526 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Amman, 14 Dec (PETRA) -- This afternoon Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim summoned the U.S. Ambassador in Amman and gave him a message addressed to U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig on the U.S. handing over yesterday of Jordanian national Ziyad Abu 'Ayn to the Israeli authorities.

The message conveyed Jordan's pain and sorrow regarding this matter which contravenes international law and human rights, particularly since everyone knows that Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories violate and contravene all international charters and human rights and that Israeli jails are filed with thousands of Arab citizens who are suffering the harshest forms of torture due to their resistance against occupation and repulsion of Israel's schemes to vacate the land of its Arab inhabitants and plant it with settlements and immigrants to pave the way for annexation to the Zionist entity.

In his mesage to the U.S. secretary of state, the foreign minister explained that under such inhumane Israeli practices, Jordanian national Ziyad Abu 'Ayn's lot will be no better than that of thousands of Arab detainees in the jails of occupation.

Concluding his message, the foreign minister called on the U.S. administration to seek to expeditiously guarantee the safety of citizen Ziyad Abu 'Ayn and secure his release so that he can join his family and kinfolk.

AD-DUSTUR Observation

JN141345 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Dec 81 pp 1, 19

[Observation by Hakim: "The Downfall..."]

[Text] Never in the history of Arab-U.S. relations has U.S. capability of becoming independent from the Israeli will and of confronting Zionist pressures been put to the test as it has been in the case of Jordanian citizen Ziyad Abu 'Ayn. Nor have U.S. failures in previous tests ever been as resounding as this one.

Ziyad Abu 'Ayn's case is different from all the other cases in which U.S. determination has been put to the test because he was imprisoned in the United States and believed he had immunity in accordance with U.S. laws. It was on the basis of these laws, however, that the United States chose to place him in an Israeli prison. That's why his case is different from the other issues in the Middle East arena. The United States has always succeeded in finding excuses to conceal its bias toward Israel. This time, however, all the masks have fallen and all excuses have vanished.

If the handing over of Ziyad Abu 'Ayn to Israel has made every honest citizen in this world mourn U.S. honor and U.S. respect of human rights, the ugliest aspect of this tragedy is that this big power, on which the peoples of the world are pinning their hopes to correct what has gone wrong in their affairs, has suffered itself from the same state of affairs.

When it acts in this humiliating manner and hands over an Arab citizen who sought refuge there deceived by the slogans of freedom and justice, to Israel, which is arresting his people, then the status of this big power shrinks and the position it enjoys in the eyes of the people is belittled making it more worthy of pity and sorrow rather than anger because only the great merit anger.

All the fragile legal justifications that the U.S. State Department deputy secretary has put forth to justify this abominable action, which his country committed against Ziyad Abu 'Ayn cannot hide the fact that U.S. laws and international law have been violated to satisfy Israel and that the United States has submitted to Israeli pressures.

Perhaps the manner in which struggler Ziyad was secretly transfered from his prison, handed over to the Israeli police in New York and deported without notifying his legal counsel reveals that U.S. officials felt they were committing a violation which had to be completed quickly before being obstructed by the U.S. judiciary and the intervention of lawyers.

What a shame!

The country which is mobilizing all its potential to carry out a campaign of provocation against Libya under the pretext that it gives refuge to international terrorism, is the same country which shows no shame in handing over Ziyad Abu 'Ayn to a bloody and racist entity which was established on terrorism, is carrying out expansion through terrorism and continues to oppress and terrorize the Palestinian people daily.

The country which is raising a hue and cry over a Soviet scientist called Sakharov asking for his release is the same country which has extradited Ziyad Abu 'Ayn, the refugee who sought safety, to an Israeli prison.

The country which published an official report prepared by Alexandra Johnson, an employee in the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem, which stated that it has been proved that Israel uses torture methods to wrest confessions from Palestinian detainees, is the same country whose assistant secretary of state said yesterday that he is confident that Ziyad Abu 'Ayn will be tried in a fair manner in Israel because the Israeli judiciary system is as fair as that of the United States.

How can we trust a country which suffers from loss of memory and contradicts itself so quickly?

In the final analysis, Ziyad Abu 'Ayn is just another Palestinian fighter among thousands of other fighters who have devoted their lives to the cause of their homeland. His trial, imprisonment or killing is, therefore, part of the continued struggle in the Palestinian process of liberation. Nevertheless, the extradition itself transcends Ziyad Abu 'Ayn as a person and raises important questions: If the United States has failed the minor test, namely, the protection of Ziyad Abu 'Ayn, how can it pass the major test of pressuring Israel to evacuate the Arab territories and recognize the Palestinian people's rights? Furthermore, if all the oil barrels which the Arabs send to the United States; the billions which they deposit in its banks; the Arab high level mediations; their cooperation and friendship, and the strategic interests between them and the United States have not been able to protect a single Arab from being abducted by Israel from the White House lap, then how can the Arabs hope to pressure the United States and the United States in turn to pressure Israel into accepting a just and honorable peace in the Middle East?

There is an Arab adage that says: Despair in a way relieves. Ziyad's story is tragic. It illustrates moral degradation. In any case it teaches us a lesson because it might open our eyes to the facts of this world and dispel mirages. It might push us a little further toward this blessed and noble despair, a despair of a justice that is not our justice, a power that is not our power and a peace that we ourselves cannot impose.

Government Statement Variation

Amman Domestic Service in Arabic at 1900 GMT on 13 December broadcasts the item entitled "Government Regrets U.S. Decision on Jordanian" published in the 14 December Middle East & Africa DAILY REPORT on page F 2. The first paragraph, lines one and two read ... The Jordanian Foreign Ministry has issued a statement following the U.S. Government decision to extradite Ziyad Abu 'Ayn to the Israeli authorities. The following is the text of the statement: The Jordanian Government has received ...

ISRAELI GOLAN ANNEXATION PLAN DRAWS IRE

Al-Wazzan Reacts

NC141848 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Commenting on the Israeli Government's decision to annex the occupied Golan Heights, His Excellency Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan made the following statement tonight:

This is a new, hostile Israeli action. It draws for the world the true image of Israel and its expansionist intentions. We have always warned about this on all levels at international and Arab forums and in all our contacts with international and other envoys. We must open our eyes since this step affects a cherished part of an Arab land in which we are all interested.

As we suffer in southern Lebanon, where the plot is continuing as well, deliberations and consultations are taking place at UN lobbies on the occasion of discussions on extending the mandate of the UN emergency forces. We insist that these forces should be able to effectively achieve the task they came for.

Perhaps the Arab brothers realize, as we do, how the Israeli enemy, exploiting the absence of solidarity among the brothers, is achieving its aims owing to this absence and to international conflicts among the major powers, is scorning international laws and destroying all principles, including UN principles.

Beirut Radio Roundup

NC150937 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] Israel's aggressive and expansionist step taken in connection with the occupied Golan Heights has drawn the unanimous denunciation of the world, which considers this step a violation of the UN Charter and covenants and a large-scale threat to peace.

Syria regards Israel's annexation of the Golan as an annulment of the cease-fire in force between the two countries and as launching a war against Syria. As a first step taken toward confronting the Israeli decision, Damascus asked yeseterday evening for the immediate convening of the UN Security Council.

As soon as the aggressive step was announced, a government spokesman stated in the Syrian capital that this aggressive and serious measure by the Israeli Government stipulates the imposition of aggression and the perpetuation of the Israeli occupation of the occupied Syrian territories.

Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam summoned the ambassadors of the five UN Security Council permanent member states and notified them of Syria's stern rejection of the Israeli measures taken over the Golan. He urged the five states to assume their responsibilities in view of this serious development which endangers world security and peace.

The Syrian Cabinet held a 4-hour session. Afterward, a statement was issued which said: The Israeli decision signifies the abolition of the cease-fire in force between Syria and Israel. It also means the annexation of Syrian occupied territory and the launching of a war against Syria. Syria reserves itself the right to take measures compatible with this flagrant and blatant violation of the UN Charter and resolutions, including Resolution 338. Furthermore, the Israeli decision confirms the Israeli entity's aggressive and expansionist policy. It unveils the kind of peace sought by this entity.

Defense Minister Gen Mustafa Talas said: The sword is the best weapon for answering the Israeli enemy.

The UN Security Council held a consultation meeting yesterday evening on the basis of the complaint lodged by Syria.

Syrian Chief UN Delegate Diya' Allah al-Fattal stated at a press conference that it is imperative that the United Nations announce that the annexation of the Golan Heights is null and void and that it is incumbent on the United Nations to ask for the abolition of this annexation.

The Israeli step has drawn angry reaction in the Arab and international domains. Washington has criticized the Israeli decision. White House spokesman Larry Speakes has stated: The United States has expressed its deep concern and its objection to any Israeli step aimed at a unilateral alteration of the Golan's legal status. Our viewpoint has been and still is that any unilateral change of the status of the Golan Heights or of any territories occupied by Israel in the 1967 war conflicts with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which are the quintessence of the two Camp David agreements and of all the negotiations in the Middle East since 1967.

Also in Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig has stated that Israel's extremely surprising decision to annex the Golan Heights is inconsistent with the UN Resolutions. He implicitly censured Israel, because it jeopardizes the peace process on which the Camp David agreements were built.

UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim expressed his great concern over the decision. A spokesman for Waldheim stated that the secretary general seeks clarifications about this matter from the Israeli authorities and that he has contacted Israel's representative to the United Nations Yehuda Blum.

In Paris, the French Ministry of External Relations expressed great surprise over the Israeli decision.

In London, a foreign office spokesman said: Britain adheres to Security Council Resolution 242, which condemns the forcible seizure of territory.

In Vienna, the Austrian Government has deplored the Begin government decision. The foreign minister said: This decision is considered a blatant violation of the international norms.

Now we come to the local and Arab domains. Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said: This is a new aggressive Israeli action which projects to the world the real image of Israel and of its expansionist objectives. We have been warning against these objectives for a long time on all levels at international and Arab forums and through all the contacts which are being held by us with all the international emissaries and by others.

He added: We are interested in this step inasmuch as it harms Arab territory to which we all devote our interests. It is imperative that we open our eyes because of our sufferings in southern Lebanon where the plot also continues while deliberations and consultations are being held at the United Nations in connection with the renewal of the UNIFIL mandate. We insist that the UNIFIL enjoy a level of efficiency enabling it to accomplish the mission for which the UNIFIL has come to Lebanon. Perhaps the brother Arabs realize, as we do, how the Israeli enemy exploits the absence of solidarity among brothers and attains his objectives because of this absence and because of the international conflict raging among the big powers. Furthermore, the Israeli enemy slights international law and all principles, including UN principles.

In Cairo, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: Egypt rejects this Israeli measure, considers it as an illegal matter and does not recognize its results.

He added: Tonight, I conveyed our official viewpoint to the ambassadors of the United States and Israel in Cairo and asked them to convey it to their governments.

Before the two ambassadors were summoned, the Egyptian presidency issued a statement saying: News agencies have quoted Israeli radio on a decision made by the Israeli Government in connection with the application of Israeli law to the land of the Golan, a flagrant violation of the contents of the framework for peace in the Middle East.

In Riyadh, Saudi Information Minister Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani has stated that the Saudi Cabinet fully denounces the Israeli decision to annex the Golan.

In Tripoli, the JANA political editor said in a comment that the annexation of the Golan is an aggressive, expansionist action which reflects the core of the Zionist ambitions.

A spokesman for the Algerian Foreign Ministry said: Israel has reaffirmed its insistence on pursuing its expansionist course.

An official Palestinian source has described the Israeli step as a new step taken toward obliterating the identity of the Arab territories. He said: The Israeli step wouldn't have been taken if hadn't it been for U.S. encouragement to the authorities of the Israeli occupation.

BEIRUT RADIO REPORTS IRAQI EMBASSY EXPLOSION

NC151122 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] This is a summary of the most important news which you will hear in detail at 1330 in the midday journal: A large explosion occurred at noon today in the building of the Iraqi Embassy, leaving a large number of dead and wounded. The building sustained heavy damage. The area has been cordoned off and the wounded have been taken out from under the debris. The Arab Deterrent Froces have cordoned off the roads from Spineys to the Coca-Cola factory and as far as the Kuwaiti Embassy.

Cause, Casualties Reported

NC151259 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] As of now some 20 people have been killed and well over 100 have been wounded in the building of the Iraqi Embassy and its perimeter after the explosion of a car bomb. The driver broke through the embassy security checkpoint and was shot dead. The explosion and the disaster occurred while the ambassador, the employees and the INA editors were in the building.

The responsible Lebanese quarters were informed. Furthermore, President Saddam Husayn has been notified of this incident.

At noon today while officials focused their interest on two unforeseen issues -- the uncertain international situation caused by the Polish crisis and the sudden Israeli step taken to annex the Syrian Golan Heights to Israel -- an explosion suddenly destroyed the building of the Iraqi Embassy in the Ar-Ramlah al-Bayda' locality of western Beirut. The building has four floors and the ambassador occupies the fourth floor. The INA editorial offices are on the third floor. Other employees and attaches work on the fifth and other floors.

Ambulances rapidly began moving the wounded to the hospitals of the university, Al-Barbir, Bayrut and Al-Maqasid hospitals. Access points to the explosion area and the roads nearby have been sealed off. They are at Spinneys, Unesco, Verdun, Al-Hilu Barracks and Mar Ilyas at-Tinah.

Armed men were also deployed around the embassy, which has a Syrian Arab Deterrent Forces barricade nearby. Meanwhile, smoke billowed out of the blown-up building. A number of houses and properties in the area were also damaged.

Iraqi Ambassador Spared

NC151231 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1227 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] Dear Listeners. We have just received the following: An official source at the Iraqi Embassy has emphasized that the Iraqi ambassador has escaped from the explosion incident together with some his aides, that the Iraqi Embassy building has not been totally destroyed, and that the Iraqi ambassador is now following up the rescue operations from the house of an Iraqi employee.

FRENCH ENVOY SAYS CHEYSSON REMARKS MISCONSTRUED

NC141309 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus today received the British Ambassador to Lebanon. They reviewed the situation in general, including the recent developments and bilateral relations.

Foreign Minister Butrus then received U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Robert Dillon and informed him of Lebanon's stand on the renewal of the UNIFIL mandate in the south.

The U.S. ambassador said that the discussions dealt with matters of interest to the two countries and the Lebanese view on the question of the UN forces. On the situation in Poland, Dillon said: We are very anxious as a result of the news of the Polish crisis. Meanwhile, Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ambassador Labaki met with the French charge d'affaires who said later that the discussions dealt with matters directly connected with Lebanon and France as well as with the situation in the Middle East.

To a question on statements by French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson in Israel, the French charge d'affaires said that Cheysson's statements have been somewhat misconstrued. He added: The French minister said that the Venice declaration must not be considered an instrument of war against Camp David because the Middle East problem cannot be settled without taking the United States and Egypt into consideration.

KUWAITI PRESS INTERVIEWS PRESIDENT AL-ASAD

JN130745 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 13 Dec 81

["Text" of interview granted by President Hafiz al-Asad to Kuwaiti paper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM and AN-NAHDA magazine -- date not given; read by announcer]

[Text] Question: Some hold Syria responsible for the postponement or the failure of the Arab summit in Fes and say that your nonattendance at the summit has led to the known results. What is Syria's stand and why did you not attend the summit in person, particularly since it has been rumored that you intentionally tried to cut the summit down to size by sending the Syrian foreign minister instead of the prime minister?

Answer: As to my attendance, I had personal reasons which prevented my attending the summit. At the same time, we had contacts with some of our brothers who were interested in the prominent issues which were submitted to the summit. We exchanged views in a brotherly, clear and frank manner. Our opinion was very well known regardless of the level of our delegation and what we heard about it this time was new. The Arabs have never agreed on or defined who should represent each country at the summit conferences. Such issues are connected with the nature of the circumstances and the regime in each country. A country may be represented by a minister who has powers not enjoyed by a prime minister who represents another country. The issue is connected with the powers delegated to the representative of a country. The Syrian delegation to the summit conference had full authority to express Syria's viewpoint clearly on every topic the summit discussed. Naturally, some pointed out that at the Amman summit conference, they decided every country must be represented at Arab summits by the president or vice president. In any case, we did not attend the Amman summit conference and we did not discuss this matter. Our delegation left for the Fes summit with great latitude, given by the command in Syria, to discuss the topics submitted on the agenda. The Syrian delegation was capable of conveying Syria's clear stand on the most prominent topics. One cannot necessarily say the Fes summit has failed. Postponing a decision on an issue or a group of issues does not necessarily mean failure. On the contrary, this may be a good thing because it will allow time to discuss the issues that have been submitted or other new developments which may be submitted at another conference.

[Question] Mr President, the Saudi paper, called the Fahd paper, was the only paper submitted. There was a need to draft a pan-Arab paper and it was expected that a Syrian would submit one. Your objection to Fahd's paper did not provide a substitute. Does this mean there is no substitute paper?

[Answer] On this point, I would like to say that our relations with our brothers in Saudi Arabia are good. We have constant contacts and dialogue with them. We have exchanged views more than once and we will continue to do so. We shall continue to exchange views on this topic and on all others which are of interest to our Arab nation. The matter here is not whether we have rejected the paper or have approved it. The matter deals with an idea which has been submitted for discussion. Any idea which is submitted for discussion is subject to approval, amendment and reformulation. Otherwise, what would be the meaning of discussion?

We clearly understood from our brothers in Saudi Arabia that they raised these ideas for discussion and debate. As they said, it is natural to discuss these ideas so they may be amended, added to or deleted. What happened was that the conference did not discuss the paper.

The matter was discussed at the foreign ministers meeting. There were discussions at the foreign ministers conference. But, as you know, there was no discussion at the summit level.

In my opinion, I saw nothing to prevent the discussion of this subject at the summit conference. However, the brothers who attended preferred postponement. We support this postponement decision. As I have said, there is no loss or harm done by this postponement. Perhaps, it will be for the best.

Syria submitted a working paper at the foreign ministers conference. However, this does not mean either the Syrian working paper or the Saudi working paper should be adopted. Any submission in this manner among us Arabs is erroneous. It harms rather than benefits us. Our working papers should constitute collective action and should complement and not contradict one another. From the total of these working papers, we should emerge with one working paper. From all these opinions, we should emerge with one opinion. We will thus have one cause. We will thus be brothers and one nation.

Question: It is said that it would have been better if the Arab summit conference had been held somewhere else in the Arab homeland instead of Fes. What is your opinion of this?

Answer: We have no reservations about the venue of the conference. This is attested by the fact that we sent our delegation.

Question: How can we emerge from the current Arab dilema, particularly since the features of a policy of axes have begun to loom on the horizon? How can we regain Arab solidarity which we in effect lost after the October war?

Answer: We should be determined to achieve solidarity and deepen the process of cohesion and solidarity. If we are serious about this, we will be able to find the way to achieve solidarity. The most prominent thing that can unite us and achieve solidarity is a united stand on the Arab-Israeli conflict. This is the most dangerous matter we are facing in this age. If we are unable to unify our stand on this conflict, it will be unable to do anything good for solidarity. To achieve unity we should not be beset with despair, no matter what difficulties we face and no matter what setbacks we have faced or will face.

We have a just cause. Our potentials infuse us with optimism regarding the possibility of victory in our struggle for this just cause. We have no choice but to stand fast first and then to repulse and regain all our rights. At this juncture, we recall that some Arabs in this or that country are saying or proposing. Most of them propose the matter innocently, saying: Many years have passed and one setback has followed another while we have not accomplished anything positive. We have not been able to triumph over the enemy. Therefore, why don't do this or that? Sometimes, some of them propose views and opinions similar to those we all read about every now and then or which are submitted for discussion at political levels.

In our opinion in Syria, it is true that many years have passed and we have suffered consecutive setbacks. It is true we have not done anything commensurate with our pan-Arab aspirations. It is also true the enemy is the most powerful force in the region and this fact should not be ignored or concealed. However, all this should prompt us to search for the cause of the setbacks in total objectivity. When we do this, we will find that the cause lies in the gaps that exist in our internal Arab edifice. Gaps exist in our total conviction and faith in our cause and in our cultural, political, economic and military preparation. We conclude that we should rectify and bridge these gaps, not look for alternatives which often indicate inability or confirm the fact that we are unable to resist this enemy.

I regret to say that some of us in the Arab homeland -- and here I speak as an Arab citizen, not as an Arab official, and I do not argue with Arab officials but with Arab citizens -- I repeat that I regret to say that some of us, as Arab citizens, are seeking the shortest, easiest and least difficult roads, which at the same time are the most prone to failure and the most tragic. When we view the matter from the perspective of the future of the nation and not that of the next few hours, months or years in which we shall live.

It is regrettable too that some, as Arab citizens, hasten to describe any call for confrontation, repulsion or steadfastness as an act of oneupmanship. I read this in our Arab newspapers. Oneupmanship is one thing and a belief in justice and right in defending them is something else. Oneupmanship is one thing and benefiting from the lessons of history and the realities we and the nations of this world have passed through is something else. If we, the sons of this generation, search for breakthroughs and loyally defend our cause, then we shall triumph. If we are unable to pinpoint the breakthroughs and if we also are unable to triumph, then this does not mean we must capitulate. If we, as a generation, fail to do and to achieve what must be done, there will be future generations which will deal with this issue in the proper manner. If we do not triumph, then future generations will triumph. In conclusion I say if we fail to triumph, then we must not bring about capitulation of or impose defeat on the Arab nation. What I am saying here is not new. I am just reviewing some facts in our history. Let us go back to the Crusaders' invasion. Although they fought us for 200 years, we did not surrender or capitulate. They, too, were a big power and had scored victories, while we had been defeated. After 200 years, however, we triumphed. Why are we now expected either to score a decisive victory in approximately 30 years or to completely surrender?

I reiterate that I am not arguing with any Arab official; I am arguing here with some Arab citizens who are keenly interested in the Arab-Israeli dispute and who, from time to time, submit pessimistic ideas which try to give the impression that the end has come, as if the road before us were blocked and we had only limited time and one of two choices: either quick victory or quick capitulation. This is an example taken from our history. Another example is that France remained in Algeria for 130 years, after which it was forced to leave. There are hundreds of examples which can be taken from anywhere to prove that such issues cannot be solved easily. We are not following the examples of our history or the examples of mankind's struggle. The road before us is long and we must continue to deepen our faith in our just causes; we must organize ourselves and our resources and regain our rights in a just and honorable manner. If we do not do this, the masses of this nation will not stand by us. The masses of this nation will not have mercy on us if we, as individuals, take it easy and spare ourselves.

If I wanted to add something that describes the state of affairs, I would say: The current situation in the area and that between us and Israel make it impossible to achieve a just peace. Peace cannot be attained in the absence of a comprehensive strategic balance between the two combatant sides, us and the enemy, nor can it be attained between the strong and the weak. A peace concluded between the strong and the weak is bound to dictate a state of capitulation, not a state of peace.

The current state of affairs between an Arab side, I mean Egypt, and Israel confirms this fact. We all hear that any conduct by Egypt that displeases Israel is described by Israel as a violation of the Camp David process and that it will do this or that regarding this conduct under the pretext that the Camp David accords are an integrated whole and upsetting one of its provisions would justify upsetting all of them. That is, we liberated some parts of Sinai to enable Israel to ultimately occupy all of Egypt. We delivered Sinai from its chains only to fetter Egypt.

We should stand fast and prepare. If we had given in to all the difficulties that have faced us throughout history, there would not have been an Arab nation.

Question: Why did Syria oppose Europe's participation in the multinational force in Sinai? What is your opinion on this participation on the Arab and Israeli levels, both at the current stage and in the future?

Answer: Briefly, I say we opposed this because Europe's participation means support for the Camp David accords. Anything else said on this is nonsense. If Europe's participation is not under the Camp David umbrella, under which umbrella is it then? Is Europe's participation in accordance with UN resolutions, for example? No, because the Camp David accords have nothing to do with the United Nations. They are tripartite accords among As-Sadat's regime, Israel and the United States. This multinational force was stipulated only in the Camp David accords and Europe will be participating in this force in accordance with the provisions of the Camp David accords. Since we are opposed to the Camp David accords, we are also opposed to those who support them or participate in implementing their provisions, such as contributing to the multinational force.

Question: As scheduled next April, Egypt will regain all of Sinai. Is Syria prepared to regain the Golan peacefully? According to Damascus, on what basis can a peaceful solution be accepted?

Answer: If we wanted to regain the Golan in As-Sadat's way, we would have done so years ago like As-Sadat. However, we do not want to regain our land or any part thereof through capitulation, although you termed it peaceful means. Although we Arabs do not like to talk about the dead, I would like to say that As-Sadat capitulated rather than made peace. He did not achieve peace but capitulation. He did not liberate Sinai from its bonds but fettered all of Egypt. This is what events confirm. We did not march along this road in the past and will not do so in the future.

The road we could march along is that of just peace. This road has its landmarks and components. Foremost among these components is the achievement of a comprehensive strategic balance. This expression includes many details which are not the subject of our discussion now. Israel knows this and the United States does as well. I have told U.S. officials whom I have met: If you really wanted peace, you would not have sent all these huge arms consignments and funds to Israel, in addition to total political support. As we know, this will widen the gap and increase the imbalance between us and Israel. The more this imbalance increases, the more we move away from the objective of peace.

Question: They say in Israel that they have always been threatened from the north, or what is known today as the eastern front. In your opinion, why was this front not established and how can it be established? You recall that Begin, in a message he addressed to Egypt, said that the danger comes from the north and called on As-Sadat to cooperate with him to confront this danger.

Answer: The eastern front is Syria. This is a fact. We had hopes in Iraq and most probably this is what you had in mind by posing this question. When Begin addressed a message to the Egyptian people before As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and even before the idea of this visit, Begin said in his letter to As-Sadat: Come, let us agree to confront the danger that comes from the north. We in Syria have exerted our utmost within the limits of our capabilities. There is no doubt we are advancing and achieving progress. We tried to expand matters to establish what we can call the eastern front in which we and Iraq would be one state. We failed, however, It is very well known that the first move the current Iraqi regime made was to destroy Syrian-Iraqi unity. We had agreed on the constitution of the unified state and we began to discuss some party matters between us and our brothers in Iraq. The situation in Iraq changed and the unity operation collapsed. On our side, we did everything possible but failed. My assessment of this issue and that of settling all Arab differences as well as the issue of true Arab solidarity and Arab unity is that they are all a matter of time. We have to intensify our efforts to attain these objectives as time passes.

Question: Everyone considers an Iraqi-Syrian agreement as the suitable means to change all the equations that exist in the region, particularly if Jordan joins this agreement. Why did the national charter with Iraq flounder and why did the situation with Jordan become tense?

Answer: I have replied to the first part of the question on why the agreement between Syria and Iraq floundered. I reiterate here that the matter is connected to the Iraqi regime and has nothing to do with us. As for Jordan, the matter has become crystal clear in the Arab region. The Jordanian regime is undertaking serious activities against Syria, activities unprecedented in the history of Arab relations. The regime in Jordan is responsible for the lives of hundreds of Syrian citizens who have been killed by the Muslim Brotherhood gang. This is no mere accusation or guesswork. They know this. We now have scores of confessions which prove the involvement of the Jordanian regime in the acts of conspiracies and killings carried out by the Muslim Brotherhood gang in Syria. I have said this to officials in Jordan directly and face to face. As you know, these matters would have made the situation even worse between us and Jordan had it not been for our belief that the two countries belong to the same nation and our concern that we in Syria should not have any role in increasing the losses sustained by Arab citizens. This is so because we do not differentiate between a Syrian Arab citizen and a Jordanian Arab citizen. History, however, will give everyone his due.

Question: The latest explosion in Damascus has caused a wave of official and popular indignation inside and outside Syria. Do you believe there was a political objective behind the explosion and will Syria pursue the Muslim Brotherhood gang abroad, taking into consideration the fact that newspapers have written about this. How will the pursuit be carried out and what consequences would this have on Syria's relations with other countries?

Answer: Naturally, the explosion and other murders and assassinations carried out by the Muslim Brotherhood are all criminal acts within the framework of a political plan to bring Syria to its knees so it cannot resist the imperialist schemes in the region.

It is well known, as we have previously said, that the activities of the Muslim Brotherhood gang are nurtured by some Arab countries surrounding Syria. Our people know we have crushed this gang inside Syria and completely destroyed its backbone. There are only some fugitives left here and there, particularly outside Syria. Some of them are in Arab countries while others are in foreign countries. Every now and then, these people try to undertake an action in accordance with a plan drawn up by their overlords and the instruments of these overlords in the region, although these overlords and instruments have become convinced that such activities only increase Syria's strength, solidity and determination to proceed along its political course, particularly regarding the pan-Arab issue.

The worst act they have carried out is the latest explosion, which killed and wounded hundreds. A political and scientific analysis of this explosion confirms the complete bankruptcy of the designers of Camp David and of the indirect agents of Camp David among the Arab countries around Syria. Naturally, it confirms the weakness of the Muslim Brotherhood outside Syria. We are not in need of such a thing. Syria's steadfastness is not affected by individuals or a group of persons who return to Syria from abroad every now and then and carry out an act similar to what has happened. It only enhances Syria's faith in the soundness of its course. It only strengthens our people's cohesion and their hatred and distaste for this gang and those who plan for it and provide it with the means for murder and destruction.

I have said and reiterate again that we will continue to strike at the members of this gang and to pursue its remnants who return to the country every now and then, coming from their dens and hideouts outside the country. In other words, the pursuit will be within the country and not outside it. We prefer to bear some of the troubles and hardships resulting from such deeds rather than undertake actions that might hurt some Arab compatriots in other Arab countries or foreign countries.

Question: Do you believe the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front is up to the level of the historic stage through which the Arab nation is passing, despite the fact that this front has not in effect dropped the Camp David accords?

Answer: I believe our cooperation in the Arab homeland, including the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front states, has helped to stop the possible spread of the Camp David accords. This in itself is a big accomplishment. However, we aspire for more. It is logical for the Arab individual to say that neither the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front nor the leaderships of the Arab countries opposed to Camp David have accomplished what should be accomplished in confronting Camp David. However, the ability to stop the spread of Camp David inspires hope in the ability to end the Camp David accords and eradicate their effects in the Arab region, including fraternal Egypt.

Like all other Arab countries, the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front states have problems, shortcomings and defects. I am putting Syria at the forefront. We should all seek to overcome these defects and realize our shortcomings. We should stand by one another and rally together to achieve what we have to achieve. We should be optimistic, particularly since we all, as officials in the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and other Arab countries, are talking about defects and shortcomings. This by itself is an incentive to rectify these defects and forestall these shortcomings.

Question: Has Kuwait changed its policy on Camp David?

Answer: Of course not. We all continue to be committed to the Baghdad summit resolutions. All of us reiterate our stands against the Camp David accords. We have sensed no contradictory trends from the Arab countries, with a few exceptions such as Sudan and Oman which even during the Baghdad summit conference had not supported the resolutions adopted on the Camp David accords.

Question: Why did U.S. envoy Philip Habib come to Damascus and what did he bring with him despite the fact that Syria's official stand is that the United States is no longer qualified to assume the role of mediator in the wake of the conclusion of the strategic cooperation agreement with Israel?

Answer: He came and spoke about the situation in Lebanon and in southern Lebanon. It was a discussion of a general nature rather than a discussion of specific points. During the talks, he did not submit specific topics on which agreement could be reached through discussion. The discussion was a review of what has taken place and we acted accordingly. We also reviewed what had taken place in Lebanon, what took place in the past and what could take place in our opinion. Philip Habib also spoke in passing about the Syrian missiles in Lebanon. We also replied in the same offhand manner, reiterating our known stand on this issue.

[Damascus SANA in Arabic at 1900 GMT on 12 December carries a summary of the Al-Asad interview with says: "The president described his talks with U.S. envoy Philip Habib during his visit to Damascus as a waste of time rather than a discussion of specific points."]

Question: We have noticed recently that the crisis of the Syrian missiles in Lebanon has abated. With Habib's return, however, the issue was raised in greater magnitude. Do you believe Israel will carry out an operation in Al-Biqa' and what will be Syria's stand if Israel carries out such an aggression?

Answer: Israel may attack the missiles; then we will defend ourselves. The Israelis are reiterating that their patience has limits, but our will, our defensive potential and our determination to confront any aggression define these limits.

Question: How do you view Lebanon's future and what is the solution to the crisis that has been going on for 6 years?

Answer: A solution can be attained through a dialogue among the parties fighting in Lebanon and the conclusion of an agreement as a result of this dialogue. This is the only road that will lead to any results that will safeguard Lebanon's interests and will end the crisis that the Lebanese have been enduring. This has been our opinion for years and it is our opinion now. It will continue to be our opinion in the future. This is what we have said to all the parties in Lebanon and to our Arab brothers. We are trying to achieve this in our efforts through the Arab Followup Committee.

Question: Do you believe that the Fes summit results will have repercussions on the Arab Followup Committee in Lebanon? How can the Arab solution be carried out, particularly since some Lebanese and Arab parties hold Syria responsibile for the nonimplementation of the Arab solution in Lebanon?

Answer: As I said a shortwhile ago, the Fes summit was not a failure. There is no connection between the Fes summit results and the situation in Lebanon. Syria's relations with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, which are members of the Arab Followup Committee, are good brotherly relations. Good understanding exists among these countries. All this helps to achieve successes in Lebanon's interest. We, however, must say that the issue does not entirely depend on the Arab Followup Committee. It depends too on the determination of the parties in Lebanon to emerge from this crisis. The committee can help the parties in Lebanon, but it cannot take their place.

Question: Mr President, do you believe that the withdrawal of the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] would contribute to the settlement of the Lebanese crisis or would it complicate it once again? Has the Syrian forces, presence in Al-Biqa, become linked to the Lebanese crisis or to the Arab-Israeli dispute?

Answer: In general, the issue is linked to the return of the normal situation in Lebanon. This situation will not return to normal unless the Lebanese parties come to an agreement. When a dialogue succeeds among the Lebanese and they come to an agreement on common objectives, Syria will then carry out what it is required to do. If the Lebanese parties unanimously ask for the withdrawal of the ADF from Lebanon, then we will gladly leave, but if they ask us to remain in Lebanon, we shall stay to carry out our fraternal duty regardless of any difficulties.

Question: Do you believe that the Gulf states will suspend financing for the ADF in Lebanon in reply to the Syrian stand in Fes?

Answer: I do not believe that one can link the two matters. Logic dictates that such a question should be avoided.

Question: In the wake of the Sannin battles, reports mentioned that Soviet forces were put on alert in preparation for transfer to Syria. How true are these reports?

Answer: I do not believe these reports have any truth in them. There is nothing to justify the Soviet forces being put on alert in preparation for transfer to Syria. We did not ask the Soviets whether this was true and they did not tell us that they had put their forces on alert. That's why I say that these reports most probably are not true.

Question: Will Syria move toward signing a strategic agreement with the Soviet Union to confront the U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement or is the treaty of friendship and cooperation between Damascus and Moscow sufficient, in your opinion, to confront this strategic agreement?

Answer: So far, there is nothing new between us and the Soviet Union. The treaty of friendship between us and the Soviet Union, however, is one thing and the stategic agreement between the United States and Israel is another.

One can obtain proof of this by going back to the provisions. What we and the Soviet Union have is a treaty of friendship whose contents are clearly stipulated in its provisions. What was established between the United States and Israel and called a strategic cooperation agreement is in fact a treaty of aggression against the Arab nation. It is not merely a memorandum of understanding or simply an agreement as they are trying to claim by defining it as a strategic cooperation. It is not a defensive treaty; the term treaty of aggression can be accurately applied to it.

Question: It has been reported that the Soviet Union is hesitating in providing Syria with sophisticated weapons and hardware. It has been reported too that Saudi Arabia has financed a deal of MiG-25 planes. How true is all this?

Answer: As I have said, cooperation between us and our brothers in Saudi Arabia is good and brotherly. Saudi Arabia supports Syria within the framework of the Arab resolutions that were adopted. There is, however, no connection at all between Saudi Arabia's support for Syria and the weapons we have obtained or will obtain from the Soviet Union. We and Saudi Arabia or we and the Soviet Union have never discussed such a topic. Therefore, what is the objective behind such reports, which have been carried by some information media for some time? The Soviet Union stands at our side and is giving us good support in terms of armaments. Development of friendly relations between Syria and the Soviet Union is in the interest of Syria, the Arabs and the Soviet Union.

This does not mean, however, that the Soviet arsenals are open to us in the same way the U.S. arsenals are open to Israel. In our opinion, the Soviet Union is a strong friend which stands by its friends as was demonstrated during the October war when it stood at the side of the Arabs in supplying Syria and Egypt with a large amount of arms and ammunition. We hope for, look forward to and hold discussions with the Soviets on this particular point: the importance of having the same quality and quantity of arms as Israel. Our discussions are held in an atmosphere of trust and friendship.

At this juncture, I would like to add that a cohesive and united Arab stand enhances the possibilities of a comprehensive balance between us and Israel, particularly in the military field.

Question: Many people are asking questions about Syrian-Palestinian relations and about a Syrian warning to Yasir 'Arafat personally, since it is being said that Abu Nidal [Hasan al-Banna] is currently in Damascus after having conducted operations from Baghdad. How do you assess relations between the two sides? Why is Abu Nidal here after having concentrated his operations against both Damascus and Fatah.

Answer: Syrian-Palestinian relations are very good, so are relations between Syria and Yasir 'Arafat. Our stand on various Palestinian groups is one of support, irrespective of the stand of this or that group on Syria. Palestinian groups are present in Syria, as is well know. As for Abu Nidal, I do not know him personally. As is known, his primary center and leadership are in Iraq. He is allowed to stay here as far as Syria is concerned. Like other Palestinian organizations, I do not know how large this one is or where it is in Syria. However, I have learned from certain quarters there are a limited number of them in Syria and their activity is also limited. At any rate, we do not encourage any faction that tries to carry out acts against another faction. We oppose any Palestinian group that might carry out acts harmful to another Palestinian group anywhere in the Arab homeland, particularly in Syria. It is clear we support the PLO and stand by it, and Yasir 'Arafat is its leader.

Question: How far has unity with Libya gone? What are the reasons which prevent its completion?

Answer: A Central Committee and other subcommittees are discussing this subject. In our meetings from time to time, we discuss this subject. It is clear to both sides that there are basic matters that should be discussed in detail and debated with accuracy in order to derive yardsticks and frameworks that would give impetus to the unity process and prevent it from retreating. This is what we are in the process of doing now.

Question: You have rejected a dialogue with the Phalangist party because of its dealing with Israel. How can you, then, stand by Iran's side despite the fact the Tehran has officially announced that it is importing arms and ammunition from Israel?

Answer: We have a stand on the Iraqi-Iranian war and we have cited the justifications for this stand. Our opinion on the Iraqi-Iranian war is still the same as when the war first erupted. Despite this, I would like to point out that this war has robbed us of the Arab army in Iraq and of the great power of the Islamic revolution in Iran, which announced from the outset that the cause of Jerusalem is Iran's cause and that it will place all its resources at the service of the Arabs to liberate Jerusalem.

The Iranians have categorically denied any dealings with Israel. One should use reason in such matters and not be dragged behind words or campaigns that have their own ends and lack objectivity and impartiality. A revolution that raises the banner of Islam, considers the liberation of Jerusalem from Israeli occupation as one of its basic principles, severs the relations which the shah established with Israel, adopts a stand on the Palestinian issue similar to the firm Arab stand and stubbornly clings to Islam and its principles since its inception cannot deal with Israel. Obviously, had there been any relationship between the Islamic revolution in Iran and Israel, there would have been no relationship between Syria and Iran. The Islamic revolution in Iran strongly opposes Israel and its occupation of Arab land. The leaders of this revolution reiterate night and day through the various information media that they look forward to the day when they can contribute to the liberation of Jerusalem. What should we tell them after all this? All we can say in this respect is that the objective of this campaign is to mar the image of the Islamic revolution in Iran and nothing else.

Question: Would you like to address the Arab people in Kuwait and his highness the amir of Kuwait? Is there to be an exchange of visits?

Answer: I greet our Arab people in Kuwait and His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad personally. We contact each other from time to time and some of these contacts are in the form of telephone calls. We are satisfied with the stands of Brother Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad and the Kuwaiti Government, particularly on the basic issues. I will try to meet with the brothers in a short time.

REACTION TO ISRAEL'S DECISION ON GOLAN HEIGHTS

Government Statement

JN142155 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2122 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] The Syrian Arab Republic today requested an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to study the situation resulting from the Zionist enemy's decision to annex the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. This evening, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic issued the following statement:

Within the framework of the Israeli enemy's aggressive and expansionist policy -- beginning with the Judaization process, the establishment of settlements and the eviction and suppression of the Arab inhabitants -- the government of the Israeli enemy has taken a decision stipulating the application of Israeli laws on the occupied Syrian territories.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, while drawing the attention of Arab public opinion and the international community to the gravity and repercussions of this measure on peace and security both in the region and the world, would like to clarify the following:

1. Syria reserves the right to take appropriate measures vis-a-vis this grave and blatant violation of the UN Charter and resolutions, including Resolution No 338.

2. This Israeli decision means the annexation of occupied Syrian territory, the waging of war against Syria and the rescinding of the cease-fire.

3. This Israeli decision confirms the aggressive Israeli entity's aggressive and expansionist policy and exposes the sort of peace this entity wants.

4. While expressing its deep anxiety regarding this new aggressive step, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic asserts that it will confront this matter proceeding from its national and pan-Arab responsibilities. It appeals to world public opinion to stand by its side to confront this serious development whose repercussions will affect not only the region but also the international situation.

As a first step, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has requested an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to tackle this dangerous situation, which threatens peace and security both in the region and the world, and to take a decision rescinding the Israeli measures and imposing sanctions on the Israeli enemy in implementation of the UN Charter and resolutions.

In this respect, the Syrian Government asserts that it will spare no efforts to defend its land and national and pan-Arab interests. It cautions world public opinion about what Israel is preparing against the Arab nation and its pan-Arab interests. It appeals to the Arab governments and masses to appreciate the gravity of the current situation and the measures and stands this situation requires to confront these dangerous developments.

Further Report

JN141942 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] The Syrian Arab Republic has requested the immediate convocation of the UN Security Council as a first step to confront the dangerous aggressive Israeli measure adopted by the Israeli Government this afternoon stipulating the application of Israeli law on the occupied Syrian territories.

The Zionist enemy again confirmed its expansionist nature when the Israeli Government decided at a session today to apply Zionist law on the occupied Golan Heights. This evening, Zionist Justice Minister Moshe Nisim announced that Begin's government decided with unprecendented speed to submit the Golan annexation law for the Zionist Knesset's voting.

This aggressive step confirms the enemy's insolence, arrogance and continuation of its expansionist settlement policy which has been rejected and condemned by the entire international community. It also confirms the soundness of Syria's vision of the Zionist entity's expansionist stands which are supported by the United States.

Khaddam Summons Foreign Envoys

JN142052 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2040 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Damascus, 14 Dec (SANA) -- This evening, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, summoned the admbassadors of the permanent members of the UN Security Council and conveyed to them Syria's categorical rejection of the aggressive expansionist Israeli measures regarding the application of Israeli law on the occupied Syrian territories, since these measures constitute a serious violation of the UN Charter and resolutions.

Khaddam called on these states to shoulder their responsibilities vis-a-vis this dangerous development which threatens peace and security both in the region and the world.

Algerian President's Call

JN142209 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid tonight phoned President Hafiz al-Asad. The two presidents exchanged views on the decision by the Zionist enemy's government to apply the Israeli law to the Golan.

President Chadli Bendjedid affirmed Algeria's stand with all its potentials alongside Syria. He also affirmed Algeria's readiness to offer all that Syria requested. He said: Algeria has taken a number of political and diplomatic measures in this respect both with regard to declaring its own position and directly contacting international groups.

President Hafiz al-Asad affirmed to President Chadli Bendjedid that Israel's attempt to apply the Israeli law to the occupied Syrian territories is a blatant aggressive act which is within the framework of the constant Zionist threat of aggression. He pointed out that it behooves us all to exert more efforts in order to expose Israel to the world public opinion.

The president added that at any rate this is an indicator on the long march of struggle between us and Israel, which behooves us to struggle alongside all the world's honorable people in order to completely rout the Zionist aggression since this is the best way to achieve justice and peace in this region.

ATH-THAWRAH Scores Decision

JN150456 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Golan Will Remain Ours," ATH-THAWRAH says: The Zionist enemy's decision to apply Israeli laws on the occupied Golan Heights not only embodies the deeply rooted Zionist malice and hatred of Syria and the Syrian people, but it also reiterates that seizure of land is the constant and permanent factor in the strategy of Zionism and its racist entity. The decision is clear-cut evidence that the proposals made by Zionism from time to time with regard to fake inclinations toward peace are actually mere stations at which the Zionist enemy gathers strength to assume new stages of aggressive expansion and occupation. This is completely compatible with the black criminal record of the Zionist entity, which is the fruit of the ugliest colonialist crime.

The black decision which the Zionist authorities hastened to make and approve yesterday is unprecedented, revealing anew a basic dictum that has governed the course of events in the area: The battle between the Arab nation and the Zionist entity is one of existence because this entity sees its continued existence in displacing and evicting the Arabs from their land.

Continuing, ATH-THAWRAH says: The Zionists have thus violated all the international charters and flouted UN resolutions that unanimously affirm the inadmissibility of annexing the land of others. The Zionists have blatantly defied the will of the international community which has condemned their crimes and called for ending their occupation of the Arab territories. The Zionists have ignored world public opinion and completely disregarded its values and principles when they impudently declared their determination to forge ahead with their expansionist scheme by annexing the Arab Golan Heights.

Such a stand has torpedoed all the proposed settlement plans and blocked the door for any move toward the possible achievement of a just and lasting peace in the area. It has also placed the entire area in an explosive circle. The Zionist decision to annex the occupied Golan is a declaration of war and the cancellation of the cease-fire. The Tel Aviv rulers are fully responsible for the creation of this serious situation which threatens the peace and safety of this area and the entire world.

Let those behind this criminal decision know that their aggression will not pass unpunished and that Syria will retaliate for this Zionist provocation. Syria has the adequate methods to defend its land, its interests and its national and pan-Arab dignity.

In conclusion, ATH-THAWRAH says: The Golan is Syrian and will remain so and its population is Syrian and will remain so. Begin and other terrorists can never obliterate this fact even if we are forced to wage 100 wars. Victory will be our people's and their just cause which is supported by all the honorable people in the world.

SANA Comments

JN141533 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1512 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Damascus, 14 Dec (SANA) -- The Zionist enemy has again proved its expansionist nature. It announced that the Israeli Government decided in a special session held today at the house of terrorist Menahem Begin, the enemy's prime minister, to apply the Israeli law to the Golan Heights.

In a report monitored here today, the enemy radio stated that after this decision was adopted, the terrorist Begin summoned the chairman of the Alignment faction Ma'arakh Moshe Shahal and informed him of this decision.

The administration of the government's coalition groups and the Alignment faction convened in the Zionist Knesset to discuss the decision on applying Israeli law to the occupied Golan Heights.

This aggressive and expansionist step by the Zionist enemy comes following the escalation by Arab citizens in the occupied Golan of their struggle against Zionist occupation and their rejection of Israeli identity and the application of Zionist laws on them.

ARREST OF COMMUNISTS CONTINUES IN DAMASCUS

NC141838 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Campaigns of arrest against communists belonging to Khalid Bakdash's wing are continuing in the Syrian capital. Syrian intelligence and the communists who support Namir Ni'mah are cooperating in uncovering the headquarters of Khalid Bakdash's group. Scores of members of this group have already been arrested and taken to the (?Qablah) prison.

Bakdash tried to have the Soviet ambassador in Damascus mediate to secure the release of the detainees and halt the Syrian campaign. The Soviet ambassador, however, explained to Bakdash that the Soviet Union cooperates with the government within the framework of a state with interests and not within a party framework.

Meanwhile, information received by the Voice of Lebanon reveals that some Western embassies in the Syrian capital are circulating information to the effect that the Al-Azbakiyah bombing incident could have been done deliberately to turn Syrian Christian public opinion against the Muslim Brotherhood, because an absolute Christian majority lives in Al-Azbakiyah quarter.

GOLAN PROPOSAL REACTION TO AL-ASAD STATEMENT

TA141439 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] The Cabinet has decided to extend Israel's law to the Golan. The prime minister will later today report to the Knesset plenum on the decision. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the Cabinet decision was made unanimously.

Our correspondent notes that the prime minister decided to submit the draft resolution on the Golan today in reaction to remarks made by Syrian President al-Asad that he will never recognize Israel even if the Palestinians recognize it. The prime minister is also taking advantage of the international situation following events in Poland. In his opinion it will be difficult to extend Israeli law to the Golan within 6 months.

The "Golan Law; 1981 Tashmav" [Hebrew calendar year] will contain three clauses:

The first says that the jurisdiction, law and the administration of the state will apply to the Golan Heights area.

The second clause says that the law will take effect on the day it is adopted in the Knesset.

The third and last clause says that the justice minister is in charge of implementing this law and is authorized to formulate regulations for its implementation.

Our correspondent in the Knesset says that a majority of opponents to the proposal is emerging in the Alignment faction. It is possible that each faction member will be allowed to vote as he chooses. MK Abba Eban has already announced that he will vote against the law. MAPAM expressed sharp criticism demanding that the entire Alignment will oppose the proposal to extend Israeli law to the Golan. The Shinuy faction too announced it will oppose the proposal. The Tehiya movement welcomed the Cabinet decision saying the Likud is moving on the right road regarding the north and it is to be hoped that it will do so also in Judaea and Samaria and stop the withdrawal in the Sinai.

MK Geu'la Kohen from the Tehiya announced that it revokes a private bill of hers regarding annexing the Golan and instead she will submit a proposal to annex Judaea and Samaria. Our correspondent explains that Kohen's bill has been pending for 2 months and about 2 weeks ago she announced that if the Cabinet does not submit the Golan law she will submit her bill to the Knesset plenum. Now, as mentioned above, she has revoked it.

Several coalition Knesset members, including Amnon Lynn and NRP's Eli'ezer Avtabi, expressed happiness over the proposal. Minister of Immigrant Absorption Aharon abu-Hatzera said his faction, TAMI, supports the draft resolution.

The Jewish settlers on the Golan welcomed the proposal with happiness. Our correspondent, Hayim Hecht, reported that they have moved from one house to another to tell everyone of the good news. The chairman of the Golan Settlements Committee said it is a great day.

BEGIN'S FIRST KNESSET SPEECH ON GOLAN LAW

TA141634 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1525 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Prime Minister Menahem Begin's speech to the Knesset plenum during debate on the Israeli Cabinet's decision to apply Israeli law on the Golan Heights -- live]

[Text] Mr Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, members of the Knesset:

First of all I want to thank the Knesset speaker and the members in attendance for the blessing they accorded me upon my leaving the hospital. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I will give a piece of advice to all my friends, colleagues and rivals -- who are also my colleagues in the Knesset due to my lengthy service in this house -- please, do not break a leg.

Thank God, as you can see, I have recuperated. However, it will be one of my duties in the coming weeks to recuperate in full. With the help of God, this will come true.

Mr Speaker: I want to thank you and the Knesset house committee for the persmission granted me -- contrary to what is customary in this house -- to make my speech from my place [at the government table] and to be seated while I speak. For reasons not my own this is necessary today. [Begin is in a wheelchair]

Mr Speaker: I am calling on the Knesset, regardless of its factions -- whether it supports or is opposed to the government, there are today factions here which are opposed to the government -- I also call on them, together with us, to legislate in this session the Golan Heights law as follows:

The Golan Heights Law Tashmav 1981:

1. The law, jurisdiction and administration of the State [of Israel] will apply to the territory of the Golan Heights as described in the appendix. All the Knesset members received the appendix together with the typed draft law describing what the Golan Heights is according to a map.

2. This law goes into effect on the day it is approved by the Knesset. The interior minister is in charge of executing this law and he is allowed to issue regulations for its implementation.

Mr Speaker: Ladies and gentlemen, members of the Knesset.

There will be nobody within or outside our country who is serious about learning the history of Eretz Yisra'el who will try to deny that for many generations the Golan Heights was an inseparable part of this land. Therefore, it was right and appropriate that the northern border of Eretz Yisra'el, which was called in English -- both in the Balfour Declaration and in the international mandate -- Palestine, should cross [lahatzot] the Golan Heights [heckling by MK Tawfiq Tubi of Hadash]. There were also Zionist efforts at the end of World War I to delineate such a border. However, two colonial superpowers who between them divided a large share of the world, after the great war known today as World War I, decided otherwise and determined the border of Eretz Yisra'el approximately 10 meters east of the shore of Lake Tiberias. This fact only proves the arbitrariness of colonial leaders in a bygone era which will never recur. This arbitrariness is categorically not binding on us. I am sure that with the support of the majority in the Knesset and the nation I can assert that historically, the Golan Heights has been and will remain an integral part of Eretz Yisrae'el.

After our renewed independence, Mr Speaker, the Golan Heights was ruled -- ambivalently speaking, they ruled the heights and with height [pun on the word "rama," Hebrew for heights] -- by the Syrians and they showed us what they are capable of doing in their attitude toward the civilian population residing in the kibbutzim, moshavim and towns in the valley below the Golan Heights. The Syrians turned the lives of thousands of these people into hell. Heeding the call of their abysmal hatred, they would open fire from the Golan Heights on our settlements. They would spread bloody terror on all of us. They would hit, murder and injure men, women and children. On no condition, will we allow those days to be forgotten. It was then said that we are giving birth to air-shelter children.

Indeed, thousands of our children would sometimes stay in the shelters, not for 1 day or 1 week but for whole months. They would not see the light of the sun and each time the alarm rang -- and that happened frequently -- they would run to the shelters to save their lives.

Can anyone conceive that Israel would ever agree to a possible recurrence of such a situation? There is no wonder that on the issue of the Golan Heights there is a national consensus in Israel -- a general or almost general consensus -- and important politicians of other countries have also stated, either in public or in private, their opinion that Israel would not be able to step down from the Golan Heights or hand it over to the Syrians.

The Cabinet stood before this 10th Knesset to receive its confidence and it determined in paragraph 14 of the basic lines of its policy as follows: Israel will not get off the Golan Heights and will not remove any settlement established on the Golan Heights. The Cabinet will decide on the propitious timing for applying the state's law, legislation and administration to the Golan Heights. The Knesset approved the basic lines of the Cabinet's policy as I submitted them.

I am now honored to inform the Knesset that the Israeli Cabinet has unanimously decided to apply today without any further dealy, Israel's law, jurisdiction and administration to the Golan Heights.

Mr Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, members of the Knesset:

Today we are not discussing the historical aspect and the security aspect, which mean safeguarding the lives of our citizens, but we are also discussing the political and moral aspect.

Several times we called on Syrian leaders to open negotiations on a peace treaty with us. Several times I made the call from the Knesset podium. Time and again I stated that I have invited President al-Asad to Jerusalem or that I am ready to go to Damascus in order to open negotiations on establishing peace between us. The Syrians rejected the hand we stretched out to them by totally negating our right to exist, our very existence as the Jewish state. Can anyone conceive that we will wait an unlimited period of time, for instance, five generations -- as the Knesset will soon hear -- or even more until the Syrians signal to us that they are ready to talk about peace and good neighborliness with us?

On 24 December 1980, almost 1 year ago, our justice minister stated from the Knesset podium -- and I am quoting: There is a framework agreement for peace in the Middle East and that is the Camp David accords. Syria will have to confront the question whether it wants to hold negotiations on peace or it wants to continue the state of war. As far as Israel is concerned, the option of negotiations between ourselves and Syria is open. However, Syria must know that Israel will not be able to wait for long and the time will come -- this is what the justice minister, on behalf of the Cabinet, stated 1 year ago before the Knesset, to the Syrians and all the countries in the world -- the time will come when Israel will have to make unambiguous decisions regarding sovereignty on the Golan Heights.

From the political and moral point of view, both in the past and in the present, where has Syria stood? We all know where.

At the Fes conference, Mr Speaker, Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam -- I emphasize that we know what he said there when he rejected Prince Fahd's plan -- he also rejected this plan. He said -- quoting -- the Arabs should not submit any plan, they should wait 100 or more years until Israel's military strength has weakened and then we will act -- end of quotation. In essence, these are meaningless words. Israel's military and defensive strength will not decline, neither in this generation nor in 5 or 10 generations. Israel's development and progress have been earnestly pursued by all the governments in the past, and present and future governments will persist in it, whatever their political composition may be. I know this is my soul, I am sure about it and I wholeheartedly believe in it.

However, the enemy's purpose and its conspiracy has been made clear beyond any doubt through the statement the Syrian foreign minister. He is awaiting our military weakening and only then would the Arabs act.

Ladies and gentlemen, members of the Knesset: You should not think that these words were only uttered to and among the Arab leaders. Syrian President al-Asad yesterday personally confirmed Khaddam's statement, almost word by word. And this is what the Syrian president told a Kuwaiti paper. I am quoting: Syria will not recognize the State of Israel even if the Palestinians do. He was specifically referring to the terrorist organization, namely, even if the terrorist organization recognized Israel, Syria would not recognize the State of Israel. He rejected the Saudi plan by claiming that this paves the way for Arab recognition of Israel and peace could not be established between Israel and the Arabs so long as the strategic balance plays into Israel's hands. He called on the Arab countries to persist in their rejectionist position until they have achieved the required level of strength to impose conditions of peace on Israel in the spirit of the Arab demands.

Can anyone conceive that we will wait until all the Arabs, led by Syria, try to impose the conditions of peace on us in the spirit of the well-known Arab demands, namely, paving the way for the annihilation of our state?

It is clear to everybody, Mr Speaker, where Syria stands from the international point of view. Libya which supports and exercises international terror, planned to commit criminal actions in the United States. The United States reacted by assuring the well-being of its citizens in light of its bitter experience in another capital. In this context, Syria has said that it stands with all its might against the United States of America and for aggressive Libya. In the meantime, Syria has been expanding its rule over Lebanon and does not at all take into account the repeated demands of the local population and of international organizations to withdraw from a land that does not belong to it; a land which used to be beautiful, calm and peace-loving before it was taken over by the Syrians and the bloodthirsty terrorists. Why did they do so? Because of a simple reason: the strategic importance of Lebanon in case Syria declares war on Israel.

Mr Speaker: These are the historical, security, political and moral reasons due to which I am honored, on behalf of the Cabinet, to present the Golan Heights Law today, to suggest that it should be transferred to the Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee after its discussion so that it can be prepared for a second hearing and to approve it in all three readings.

Mr Speaker: I thank you for your attention.

ARENS SPEECH AT KNESSET DEBATE ON GOLAN LAW

TA141655 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1542 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Speech by Likud MK Moshe Arens to the Knesset -- live]

[Text] Mr Speaker, Honorable Knesset Members: There is no need to explain in this house the strategic importance of the Golan Heights to the State of Israel and all of Israel's residents. It is not only the security of our residents in the north that depends on our military presence in the Golan but it is the security of the entire state, of all its residents.... [Knesset Speaker Savidor calls for order following remarks from the floor]

Mr Speaker, Knesset Members: It is unnecessary in this house to explain the strategic importance of the Golan Heights to the State of Israel. It is not only the security of our residents in the north that rely on Israeli control of the Golan but the security of the entire state depends on continued Israeli rule in the Golan Heights. Should the Knesset members be reminded of the first, difficult days of the Yom Kippur War? Should it be explained to the residents of Israel what could, God forbid, have happened on that fateful day when an attack was launched on the State of Israel, if the IDF had not controlled the Golan Heights, the entire Golan Heights? For 14.5 years the IDF has controlled the Golan Heights but Israeli law, jurisdiction and administration did not rule the Golan Heights.

Those who shouldered the price of a military government in the Golan for 14.5 years were the Golan Heights residents, the Druze, Jews and 'Alawites, who did not enjoy law, administration, civilian law but had to live, throughout this period, under military administration. It seems to me that all those who worry about civilian rights, about the rights of Jewish citizens, of Druze and of 'Alawite residents, will be happy now and justify the law submitted in the Knesset plenum today.

It has been only in recent weeks that we have dedicated quite a bit of time to the problems arising in the Golan following the possibility given to the population there to request that Israeli identity cards be issued them. I think that everyone's conclusion was that the main problem facing the local residents there, as well as the military authorities there, stemmed from the vagueness, from the lack of a firm decision on the fate of this territory, at least in the eyes of part of the Golan Heights population. If lessons are to be drawn following the problems, arising from the issuance of Israeli identity cards to the local population that we make it unequivocally clear what the fate of this territory is and hence what their future is. Mr Speaker, the draft resolution lying in front of us will do exactly this.

There is no doubt that by this law we will bring about a normalization [last word in English] of the condition of the Jewish citizens of the Golan Heights and I would like to remind the Knesset members that the entire 'Alawaite population on the Golan Heights chose to have Israeli identity cards issued for it and it can therefore be assumed that this law will gladden them as well.

Are there Knesset members in this house who think that the Golan Heights should be returned to the Syrians? [Knesset Speaker Savidor again calls for order]. I think there are only few in the whole country who envisage that one day this territory, which is so important to Israel's security, will be returned to an Arab country which is perhaps the most intransigent of all in its war against the State of Israel and in its opposition to Israel's existence along any borders. Some, perhaps, say that this measure should be implemented but not now, that the timing is not right and that the decision should be postponed. Mr Speaker: I would like to remind the Knesset members that we have waited for 14.5 years for this day and postponed this decision from one day to another in an attempt to find the right timing. I do not think that it is conceivable to any of us that we should wait for another 15 years or even 1 more year.

Some will claim that applying the Israeli law, jurisdiction and administration to the Golan Heights closes options to negotiations and that even if there is nobody we can speak to in Syria today one day there may be somebody to talk with. They will claim that this step of ours may close this option. Knesset members: In my opinion, there is no basis to this argument. There have been quite a few cases in history in which negotiations were held and a territory was transferred from one sovereignty to another and the fact that the territory was not run by military administration but by a civilian administration was not a reason to prevent negotiations. If the day comes when there is somebody with whom we can talk to in Syria, I am confident that today's step will not be the one to prevent the negotiations with that day's Syrian Government.

Mr Speaker: The decision on the draft resolution lying before us now, the passing of this law, is a day of celebration for the country. We have long waited for this day. This is a celebration for all the country's citizens and it is especially a day of festivities for the country's residents who live in the Golan Heights: Druze, Jews and 'Alawites.

ALIGNMENT DECIDES NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN DEBATE

TA141716 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] By a vote of 30 to 8 the Alignment faction has decided to adopt MK Gad Ya'aquobi's proposal not to participate in the Knesset debate. This is a report we have just received.

The head of the Labor party, Shim'on Peres, said in New York that in his opinion we should not withdraw from the Golan nor remove any settlements. However, in his opinion, there is no ground for legislating laws and making declarations on this issue but instead for developing the area. Tomorrow, after his return to Israel, Peres intends to convene officials of his party in order to discuss the Golan Law and the way the Cabinet submitted it for Knesset approval.

RADIO REPORTS REMARKS AT KNESSET DEBATE

TA141740 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] A storm erupted in the Knesset during the speech by Likud MK Amal Nasr ad-Din. MK Charlie Biton from Hadash called him a Quisling and MK Tufiq Tubi from Hadash defined him as a traitor. MK Biton was sent out of the Knesset plenum hall and MK Tubi was warned three times. Our correspondent Tzvi Yisra'eli notes that MK Nasr ad-Din answered them in the same language.

MK Tugiq Tubi from Hadash said that the decision adopted by the Cabinet is adventurous, runs counter to international law and piles another obstacle on the road to stable and just peace. By this mad step, as he called it, the Cabinet is defying all international laws, dishonoring international pacts, strongly undermining Israel's status as a state of law and consolidating its image as a state of robbery and usurpation. These were the remarks of MK Tufiq Tubi.

MK Ge'ula Kohen [from the Tehiya movement] said the Golan Law has come at the right time and can boost the people's morale and faith. She congratulated the prime minister and later launched a sharp attack on the Alignment. She said the Alignment is an opposition which does not know it should struggle against the government when necessary nor does it know it should transcend animosities with the government on a day like today. MK Ge'ula Kohen said the world's reaction need not be feared. The world will this time as well send us thorns rather than flowers but it has not sent us anything else for 4,000 years.

BEGIN REPLIES TO CRITICS IN KNESSET DEBATE

TA141901 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1742 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Prime Minister Menahem Begin replies to critics during Knesset debate on application of Israeli law to Golan Heights -- live]

[Text] Mr Speaker, while I was resting for awhile downstairs, I listened to two speeches by critics. With all due respect, I first of all want to ask them -- after all, this question should be asked once and for all: Dear friends, will you account for yourselves? On this important problem, whom are you representing? On whose behalf are you talking? On behalf of whom is this sector talking? Two mandates instead of seven, they have two mandates while they had hoped to get 10 or 8 mandates. [Begin apparently alluding to the Shinuy faction] We are 24 times larger than you. So, who is talking on behalf of the nation? What is this arrogant talk as if you were representing masses of the Israeli public?

Dear Prof Rubinstein, my intellectual friend: You should look within yourself on this issue. In any parliament there is political representation rather than theories. You are not standing in academic halls talking about international law. With all due respect, here you are a member of the Knesset, enjoying equal rights. Did I deny anybody his right? I am only saying that, on the contrary, you left the 9th Knesset with 7 mandates and you arrived in the 10th Knesset with 2 mandates. Well, just account for yourself, look within yourself.

My friend, Mr Ben-Porat [of TELEM], does he not know what happened to his mandate? Well, I am not finished with what I have just said. A public 24 times larger representing the majority of Israel decided on its behalf. In the hearts of hundreds of thousands of citizens today there is the kind of joy which the State of Israel has not experienced in years. I am not saying that there will be no tests. I did not even say a word about it in my opening speech, it was not necessary.

Now, I want to state openly: I know that we will have to stand some trials. Have we not stood trials before? Will anyone teach us how to stand trials? These critics -- did they read the memorandum of former Foreign Minister Moshe Sharet to General Marshall in 1950? What did that memorandum say? You attacked the memorandum of understanding this government signed with the United States of America about strategic cooperation. Well, look at what has now been revealed about what Sharet said in 1950 in a secret memorandum to the U.S. secretary of defense. He said: We have 200,000 soldiers able to defend democracy, but send us some food, give us some weapons, we will stand by your side. At the same time, the government at that time was talking on behalf of the nonaligned [countries], and it did not tell the nation that it had abandoned nonalignment a long time ago and that it was joining the stategic deployment of the West, led by the United States. The government pleaded and begged at that time, did we plead?

I want to tell the members of the Knesset that the first U.S. draft which was submitted to us contained the following sentence: Israel will extend military aid to campaigns launched by the U.S. Armed Forces and in which Israel will participate to defend democracy. When I read this, very superficially, I asked the U.S. ambassador: In your draft it is written that Israel will extend aid. And what will the United States of America extend? He replied: You have got a point [last five words in English]. I told him: No, I don't have a point, Mr Ambassador, I have a proposal. What is your proposal? [last two sentences in English] So, I told him: The United States and Israel will extend military support to each other. [last 12 words in English] The United States and Israel will extend support to each other if it is necessary to act. Then he told me: I think this is the right idea. That was the central point in the memorandum of understanding, the idea of mutuality. Our proposal was accepted. The Americans were still very hesitant. In their second draft they did not write my proposal but "the two parties will provide military support." [last seven words in English] So I said: If this formulation remains then it is as if both parties commit themselves to extend military aid to a third party. I asked: Where are the words "each other?" [last two words in English]

We did not slacken our persistence until they introduced the word mutuality. We are a small country and they are a large superpower. However, as far as performing such duties, we will insist on the idea of equality between the nations, without any exception or reservation. If a small, sovereign and free country is ready -- order to defend a common ideal, a common supreme interest -- if it is ready to act as we promised each other we would, then it becomes an equal, then it will be an equal, with all due respect to the large superpower. The fact is that our proposal was accepted, otherwise we would not have signed under any circumstances. The defense minister knew this, all the Cabinet ministers heard about it. Now, you in the Knesset, have also heard about it. Mutuality is an iron rule in our policy. Will you be the ones to teach us a lesson? Will you tell us off because we put the IDF at the avail of foreigners? Will you be the ones to spread rumors that this is a memorandum conducive to war or even worse than that? Indeed, there are things worse than war although my friends and I are wholeheartedly opposed to war, and we will do everything possible to prevent a war.

Indeed, in the life of a nation there are worse things than war: Extinction is worse than war, destruction is worse than war. Will you be the ones to tell such stories to the nation? What did you say here today? What did the critics say?

None other than Professor Rubinstein said -- I heard his words -- this law means that there will never be peace negotiations with Syria and you accused the government of being the culprit. Are these words true? Are we to blame because we submitted this draft law or did we not wait 15 years to conduct negotiations on peace with Syria? What did Syria state only 2 weeks ago and also 2 days ago through its authoritative representatives -- the Syrian foreign minister at Fes and Al-Asad in a Kuwaiti newspaper? They did not wait for our law. They said: Syria will never recognize the State of Israel. Syria will never submit a proposal containing a recognition of the State of Israel. Syria will wait until the State of Israel weakens or until the Arabs gain such strength that they will be able to dictate or impose, to force upon Israel [last four words in English] -- according to the English version -- the conditions held by the Arabs. Does anyone have to wonder what the meaning of these words is? Did this come in the wake of this law or did it happen before this law was approved? Did this take place in the wake of this law or even before thought had been given to this idea and before it was submitted to the Knesset? So, you will try to incite and mislead this free, democratic country; a country that is willing to listen to any kind of critical, derogatory or futile words to the effect that I am behaving as a dictator. A member of MAPAM, a great democrat, a well-known Stalinist in the 1950's, a man in whose kibbutz there used to hang the picture of a certain man whom I do not want to call by name today -- that man will teach me about democracy? I sacrificed my soul for the sake of democracy. I am one of the men who built democracy in Israel, together with former prime ministers, when I was the head of the opposition. Anyone in Israel knows that. Will you preach democracy to us? [heckling by MK Tawfiq Zayyad of Hadash] You Stalinist, you foreign agent, [Begin now addressing MK Me'ir Wilner of Hadash]. You foreign agent, what gall. You disgusting Stalinist [heckling by MK's Tawfiq Zayyad and Me'ir Wilner of Hadash; Knesset speaker asks Begin's permission to strike the term "disgusting Stalinist" from the minutes]

No, there is no way I can take back the word Stalinist. However, I take back the word disgusting [laughter]. Stalinist is a political term. Mr Speaker: The phenomenon of self-accusation has been afflicting the Jewish people for generations. The Jew is always to blame. If pogroms are conducted against him -- the Jew is to blame. If his blood is shed -- the Jew is to blame. Knesset members are now saying: Syria will not conduct peace negotiations within 1 year and the Jewish government is to blame. You heard what the most authoritative Syrians said -- President al-Asad, the foreign minister -- they have explicitly and openly stated before the entire world: no, you are to blame because you submitted this law.

Well, I am stressing that we submitted this law after the fact, the Syrian announcements that they will not negotiate or recognize us notwithstanding. Why do you lend a hand to (?foreign political opposition)? Why would you do such a thing to this people? [heckling by Me'ir Wilner]

I am not talking to you. You should ask yourself who conquered what after World War II [heckling by MK Charlie Biton of Hadash].

Mr Speaker: I want to sum up this debate. I am again appealing to all members of the Knesset. Dear friends, why can we not close ranks? I summoned Moshe Shahal, the chairman of the Alignment faction in the Knesset, immediately after the Cabinet reached its decision. I informed him about all the details and reasoning. So, you are split in your opinions. I am now asking: This Knesset has always been under the impression that as far as the Golan Heights are concerned there is a consensus among the Likud, the Alignment and the NRP. Is Dr Burg an extremist? His entire career denotes moderation, and he is in favor of this law, with all his heart, and you talk about extremism? Why would you spread such a false rumor? What extremism are you talking about? For 15 years we have been waiting for the sign. Not only did they not come forward, they say that they will never do so. So, how long should we wait. Should we really wait until they have weakened us? Somebody said that there will never be negotiations.

Are not five generations forever?

Professor Rubinstein, sir: In another generation where will we be? Will we not be in the eternal world? Are not five generations an eternity? [words indistinct] Al-Asad said: We must wait 100 or more years, namely, over five generations, until Israel weakens or the Arabs gain strength and only then will they speak to us. Maybe, they will try to impose on us their conditions for peace, namely, a direct way leading to extinction. Such an event will never happen.

I would also like to say a few words to my friends the Americans tonight. We did not consult the U.S. Government on this draft resolution. It is not only that in my opinion we had no duty to ask any government about this sovereign act; on the contrary, we are announcing that we decided not to ask because we had no doubt that our friends the Americans would say "no" to us, and with all due honor we could not take this "no" into consideration. Then it would have been graver, from the point of view of the bilateral relations between the two countries, the two peoples, if we had brought the draft resolution to the Knesset after we had received advice or demands from the United States not to do so. We would have done this. We would have coped also with the U.S. "no." However, we were not interested in it. Why should the Americans be put in a difficult position? Why should we demand them to say "yes?" They have their own interests, they would not say this in this case. Should we have invited the "no" which we were confident we would get and then not take it into consideration? This is not political wisdom and therefore we did not approach the United States. We do not have to do this.

However, our friends the Americans, with all due respect... [interrupted by MK Wilner's heckling] What do you think, that Washington is Moscow? Washington is not Moscow. Well then, Wilner, stop it. How many times will you stop me? Why do you shout? After all, your interjections contain no wisdom or humor. You are just shouting. [Heckling continues accompanied by Begin's laughter.] This was worthwhile hearing. [Correspondent notes that Wilner charged that this Cabinet's draft resolution was agreed upon with Washington.]

To repeat, with all due respect, we and the Americans are friends, we help each other and will continue to do so. We are allies and will continue to be allies, but nobody will dictate to us our lives, not even the United States of America with all due respect to its power and status and its spirit of liberty. No other people will dictate our lives to us. Nobody gave us this country as a gift. We shed our blood, our entire people shed their blood in order that it be set up and exist. No foreign soldier, either from the United States or France or any other place has died for us for 30 long years while we were surrounded by enemies! When we faced hard days on the battlefield we never asked a single soldier to come to save us. Tools -- yes! Did Churchill not say, give us the tools and we shall do the job [last 10 words in English]? Is it a disgrace to ask for tools? Everyone needs help in this sphere, but soldiers -- we were the warriors for the freedom of Israel. We were the soldiers, and by "we" I am referring to all of the Israeli people who defended Israel's independence.

On the Golan Heights we are talking about our life, about our life and our future, the welfare and safety of this nation. Nobody will push us to the lines of 4 June 1967; no nation or superpower will succeed in pushing us to those lines, the lines of non-existence, the lines of bloodshed, the lines of provocation and aggression. Nobody will dictate to us our lives. We have established a life of freedom on this land and we will defend it with all the power at our disposal, and thank God we have the strength.

We are on the eve of Hanukka, Mr Speaker, and I would like to declare publicly, as we and my colleagues know -- since the Macabee days the Jewish people have not been as strong and deeply rooted in Eretz Yisra'el as they are today. Thank God. With this strength, we will not set out on any war of aggression but will defend our ideals, our supreme interests, our independence and our rights as any free and democratic country will do.

We brought a draft resolution to the Knesset for discussion and decision and I am calling on all members in this hall to accept the Cabinet's decision and approve it and at this stage to transfer to the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee the draft resolution on the Golan Heights for preparation for a second reading.

[Knesset Speaker Savidor] Mr Prime Minister, with your permission, Shinuy MK Amnon Rubinstein wants to ask you a question. He has been on his best behavior. Please.

[MK Rubinstein] The prime minister said he heard what I said during the debate but I am afraid that his ears were not very attentive. I said and I repeat that I have no doubt that the majority of the Knesset and the decisive majority of the public supports this move and will support even more extreme moves, that it will support annexation of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, that it will support the demolition of houses. I have no doubt that I am here representing the opinion of a minority, but I have two things to say: First, history is full of examples of a mistaken majority, and second, to hear these remarks from you, Mr Prime Minister -- this is truly incredible. You have been a member of this Knesset for many years. You once headed a minority faction, not only a small faction but also an ostracized faction, ostracized by the ruling party. Did this prevent you from making your remarks? Were you then prepared to listen to lecturing? Were you prepared to listen then to lecturing that you have no right to express your opinion since you are a (?minority)? [Begin interrupts here and asks whether he ever said such a thing.] Just one more sentence. The prime minister directed five or six remarks to me and I would like to answer only two. This was the first reaction. As for the second, I would like to correct a mistake [unclear heckling by Begin ensues here]...

[Knesset Speaker Savidor -- interrupts] I told you that you could ask a question but not deliver a speech.

[Begin] I would like to answer his question, Mr Speaker. MK Rubinstein, did I say a single word about you not having a right to express your opinion? I clearly said that you have a right, and so does MK Ben-Porat. I just asked you to account for yourselves a little. Am I not allowed to do so? We are colleagues in the Knesset. Do you know that the public's decisive majority is in favor of applying the Israeli law to the Golan Heights. You use the word annexation but I am not using it. So it is written in the law, so we wrote in 1967 when you were not in the Knesset, that the government has a right, by order, to extend the state's law, jurisdiction and administration to any part of Eretz Yisra'el as stipulated in the order. However, that law does not apply to the Golan Heights since, legally speaking, Eretz Yisra'el refers to and means the mandatory area.

Therefore, we brought a special draft resolution. This is the reason. When you tell me that history has registered many cases where the majority was mistaken, my friend, I too learned a bit of history, certainly not less than Mr Rubinstein. I would like to tell him that there was a great writer in Scandinavia named Ibsen who wrote the famous play "The People's Enemy" [last three words in English]. There, among other things, Ibsen says that the minority is always right. He was not a fascist. He did not uphold dictatorship. He was a democrat but this great artist so wrote and explained in his play. Dr Stockman [protagonist in this play] belonged to the minority and was in the right. What am I claiming? What Ibsen wrote is incorrect. The minority is not always right, nor is the majority always right, the minority can be mistaken and so can the majority. True, there have been such cases in the past. You have to prove to all these people who are a majority representing the people's decisive majority that they should not express the people's wish since you are opposed. With all due respect, your opposition is not enough. You yourself said that we are here expressing the wish of most of the people. What did you want? Did you want us, as a government, to express the minority's opinion? This is absurd.

Therefore I am asking for your agreement in principle to the following: The minority can make a mistake as I am convinced that you are mistaken today. The majority too can indeed make a mistake, but today I am convinced that this majority is not mistaken. What can I do? Dr Burg too, also Ehrlich, Shamir, Aridor and Hammer, all the colleagues sitting here are convinced of this. What can I do since I am convinced that the majority is not mistaken but rather treading the right path? We are expressing the opinion of the majority of the public, surely. What else did you expect, that we express the minority's wish? Do not cause disturbances all the time.

Mr Speaker, I am ending here. I answered Mk Rubinstein and I repeat my request that the Knesset members unite and vote to transfer this draft resolution to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee at this stage.

KNESSET PASSES FIRST READING OF GOLAN BILL

TA141905 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1847 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] In the Knesset vote at the end of the Knesset debate on the first reading of the Golan draft resolution, 60 Knesset members voted in favor and 17 voted against transferring the draft resolution to the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee.

Agudat Yisra'el was the only Coalition faction which did not participate in the vote. The list of the Alignment Knesset members who voted against the Cabinet's draft resolution includes MAPAM's Knesset members -- Imri Ron, Muhammad Watad, El'azar Granot, Ya'ir Tzaban and Victor Shemtov -- as well as Yosi Sarid. Seven of the Alignment Knesset members voted for the Cabinet's draft resolution.

Only about 14 or 15 Alignment Knesset members were present in the plenum hall during the vote. The rest of the Alignment Knesset members were not present. Those who were present in the plenum hall were divided into two camps -- one supporting and one opposing the Cabinet's draft resolution.

The draft resolution will now pass to the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee. In a short while it will be returned to the Knesset plenum for a second and a third reading. We believe that by midnight [2200 GMT] the Knesset will approve the Golan law submitted by Prime Minister Begin in the afternoon.

Details on First Reading

TA142038 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Seventeen Alignment Knesset members participated in the vote [on the first reading of the Golan Heights Law] contravening an explicit decision made by their faction. Seven of them, the hawks in the Alignment, voted with the Coalition and 10 voted against it, together with Shinuy and Hadash. The Golan Heights Law passed its first reading with a majority of 60 in favor and 17 opposed. The members of Agudat Yisra'el did not participate in the vote and they are apparently awaiting more specific instructions from the Council of Torah Sages.

Our correspondent reports that a few minutes before the vote, the chairman of the Alignment faction, Moshe Shahal, pleaded with his colleagues not to disobey the decision of the faction, to boycott the debate. Moshe Shahal said: If there is no united position today, tomorrow there will be no Alignment faction.

During the lengthy debate in the Alignment faction, the former chief of staff, Mordekhay Gur, said Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon is striving to wage war with Syria and through this law he is trying to muster general agreement for the war. MK's Ya'ir Tzaban and Yosi Sarid seconded Gur's opinion.

KNESSET DEFENSE COMMITTEE EXAMINING GOLAN LAW

TA142014 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] The Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee is now dealing with the Golan Law and Defense Minister Sharon as well as Alignment MK Shelomo Hillel are participating in the discussion. Minister Sharon arrived in order to update the committee members on the situation in the north while MK Shelomo Hillel was sent by his Alignment colleagues to ask for an intelligence assessment and for details on the background that gave rise to the draft resolution.

The committee has been convened for more than an hour now and the estimate is that it will sit for another 30 minutes approximately. Later the Knesset plenum will be reconvened in order to approve the law in second and third readings. Our correspondent reports that there is a lot of indignation in the Alignment about the divisions manifested in the faction's vote. It is possible that more Alignment Knesset members will join those who violated the faction's discipline in their vote in the first reading.

MINISTERS NISIM, SHARON COMMENT ON GOLAN LAW

TA142230 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 2150 GMT 14 Dec 81

[From the "Before Midnight" newsreel]

[Text] This evening, Justice Minister Moshe Nisim told the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee that upon the enactment of the Golan Heights Law, Israel is bound to be denounced and have difficulties with friends. We took this possibility into account, Nisim said, however this law had to be passed from the security and political points of view. This is reported by our correspondent in the Knesset.

Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon stated before the committee that if the Syrians take advantage of the law to harass the settlements on the Golan Heights, Israel will not get into a war of attrition, neither in the Galilee nor on the Golan Heights.

MK GUR: SHARON WANTS 'TEST OF FIRE' WITH SYRIA

TA151128 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Interview with MK Mordekhay Gur on the Midday Newsreel -- live]

[Excerpt] [Question] In yesterday's Alignment faction meeting, you maintained that Arik Sharon is in fact leading us into a war. Is that not too grave an accusation?

[Gur] First of all, it is not a grave accusation, but one that has a basis. I have heard Arik in many forums, on a great many occasions. More than once he has said clearly, without hiding it, that sooner or later we have to enter into a test of fire [mivhan eish] with Syria, even if he found it very difficult to define the immediate objective. That was the case when the Syrians entered Lebanon, it was the case in many stages afterward, and to the best of my knowledge -- not only my assessment -- it is also one of his basic viewpoints in the sphere of Israeli strategy. In my view, it is a very dangerous outlook.

TV REPORTS ON U.S. REACTION TO GOLAN LAW

TA142052 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Excerpt] The U.S. State Department spokesman a short while ago issued a cautious but clear reaction to the Cabinet's decision to extend Israeli law to the Golan Heights. The spokesman condemned this act and said that the United States is very concerned and will oppose any unilateral change in the Golan.

There has been no official reaction in Europe since everyone is preoccupied with the situation in Poland. Our correspondent in the United States, Dan Raviv, reports initial reactions.

After the initial astonishment, which was lost in the current coverage of the situation in Poland, the State Department has recovered and emerged with a cautious but clear reaction. We are very concerned -- the spokesman said -- and will oppose any unilateral change in the Golan's status. He added that any change effected in the Golan or any other territories occupied in 1967 runs counter to UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and is illegal. The U.S. administration had no previous knowledge of the Israeli intention and the U.S. administration has made its opinion known to the Israeli Government.

The announcement on the Israeli Cabinet's decision took the U.S. administration by total surprise. U.S. Secretary of State Haig is now on his way to Washington and so is Israel's Ambassador 'Evron who was staying outside Washington when the news reached him. Contrary to the initial official version which said it was unclear whether annexation or applying Israel's law was involved -- although the spokesman himself could not specify what the difference was as far as the U.S. reaction was concerned -- the unofficial versions heard here are very sharp and will surely also be made on the official plane shortly.

EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR REACTS TO DECISION ON GOLAN

TA141458 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1454 GMT 14 Dec 81

[News bulletin]

[Text] Egypt's Ambassador to Israel has said that the decision to apply Israeli law on the Golan Heights will adversely affect Israeli-Egyptian relations. Ambassador Sa'd Murtada told our correspondent Aharon Barne'a that the decision contradicts the Camp David accords and international law.

Further Details

TA141751 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1710 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Here is the reaction [to the Golan Heights Law] -- of Egyptian ambassador to Israel Sa'd Murtada as given to our correspondent on Arab affairs Aharon Barne'a.

[Begin recording] [Barne'a] The Golan Heights is an inseparable part of the Syrian territory Israel conquered in the 1967 war, Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Sa'd Murtada told us.

[Murtada -- in English] Israel's unilateral decision to apply Israeli law in the Golan Heights is tantamount to the annexation of this territory against the rules and norms of international law, of the United Nations Charter, the Hague regulations and against the fourth Geneva convention.

[Barne'a translates the above and continues] According to these international documents, the occupying country has no right to annex conquered territory. I would also add -- Murtada went on to say -- that this decision, which is not compatible with the Camp David accords, does not help the serious efforts of Egypt and Israel and their good intentions to bring about a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

[Murtada -- in English] This decision, which is incompatible with the spirit of the Camp David agreements, does not serve positively the sincere efforts and good intentions of both Egypt and Israel to establish a comprehensive and just peace in the area.

[Barne'a] And how is the new law likely to affect relations between Egypt and Israel, I asked the Egyptian ambassador?

[Murtada -- in English] But, it won't certainly affect the peace process. It will not affect it, but, of course, it is not a positive step. We don't consider this as a positive step. Negotiations will continue regarding the normalization. The negotiations will continue about the autonomy talks. Nothing will change. I will just state -- like I hope even some of Israel's friends -- our point of view. [end recording]

DRUZE 'ASTONISHED' BY GOLAN HEIGHTS LAW

TA141954 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] The Druze settlement on the northern Golan Heights reacted to the government's decision [to apply Israeli law on the Golan Heights] with utter astonishment. Those supporting Israeli citizenship praised the decision although they stressed they are awaiting the Knesset's final decision. The opponents, led by youths in the village of Majdal Shams, described the decision as a tragedy and said they would never accept Israeli citizenship.

GAZA LEADERS DECRY DECISION ON GOLAN LAW

TA141717 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah said that the Israeli Cabinet decision on the Golan proves that Israel wants to expand at the Arabs' expense and in his opinion this is a result of the memorandum of understanding signed between Israel and the United States.

Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa told our correspondent Arye Gus that Israel must not annex part or the whole of the Golan Heights because this territory is an inseparable part of Syria.

West Bank Reaction

TA150715 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Report by Arye Gus on the Morning Newsreel -- live]

[Excerpt] The sharpest reaction yesterday came from Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf, who said that Israel is implementing its policy of expansion from the Euphrates to the Nile. Other figures in the territories also say that the law proves the Israeli policy of annexation and expansion. For example, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj:

[Begin recording] [Frayj -- in English] This is a warning that Israel will contemplate annexing the West Bank and Gaza and applying Israeli law to them, and that makes a mockery of Israeli protestations for peace. [end recording]

[Gus translates Frayj's remarks and continues] That is the prevalent view in the territories. Another view: The application of Israeli law on the Golan is the direct result of the memorandum of understanding between Israel and the United States, Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah was the first to make that point, and this morning he has the agreement of [Gaza Mayor] Rashad ash-Shawwa and Bethelem Mayor Frayj, Frayj's conclusion: The Arabs must unite in order to withstand these dangers. We cannot expect any help from the international community, he said.

CHIEF OF STAFF RECALLED FROM VISIT TO EGYPT

TA150903 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] The chief of staff, Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan, has been called back from Egypt because of the latest developments in the wake of the passage of the Golan Heights Law. He was to have returned the day after tomorrow. The shortening of his visit was done in coordination with his Egyptian hosts. This was related to our military correspondent by the Defense Ministry spokesman.

SHARON SAYS PRECAUTIONS TAKEN ON GOLAN

TA150522 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon has said that Israel has taken into account all the security events to be expected in the wake of the passage of the Golan Heights Law. The IDF has taken all the necessary measures in view of the possibility that forces will be moved or that the terrorists will attempt to harass the settlements on the Golan Heights.

More Details

TA150722 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Report by military correspondent Shmu'el Tal -- live]

[Text] Israel's precautionary measures were taken before the Cabinet's decision about the Golan Heights Law was made public. Residents in the north were given appropriate instructions in view of the possible increase in tension. Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon has said that Israel took into account all the expected security events in the wake of the law's passage, and that the IDF has taken all the necessary measures in view of the possibility of troop movements or of terrorist attempts to harrass Golan Heights settlements.

Defense sources say, however, that the visit of the chief of staff and the air force commander to Egypt will continue as planned. The chief of staff and his entourage will return to Israel the day after tomorrow.

According to various reports the Syrians have declared a state of readiness in their army in the Golan Heights region, and they may seek to move troops into the region -- which would be a violation of the separation of forces agreement.

The Syrians have two divisions on the Golan Heights, and there is another division near Damascus, the general staff division of Rif'at al-Asad, the president's brother. All told, the Syrians have six divisions. One is in Lebanon and the other are deployed opposite Iraq and in camps inside Syria. Since the Yom Kippur war the Syrian Army has undergone an accelerated process of strengthening. It now numbers 225,000 men. It has advanced Mig-23 and Mig-25 planes, T-72 and T-62 tanks, and is outfitted with sophisticated self-propelled artillery pieces and helicopter gunships. If the Syrians decide to unilaterally annul the separation of forces agreement, they may try to mass troops closer to the Golan Heights line and also move in missile batteries and other forces, it is already known that the Syrians can shift from a defensive to an offensive deployment within a very short time.

The Syrians could also operate indirectly by reacting in Lebanon. They may now try to heat up the sector in Israel's north. As noted, the defense minister has said that Israel took into account all the expected security events in the wake of the law's passage in the Knesset.

Sharon Tours Golan Heights

TA151110 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] The defense minister today toured the Golan Heights. This is reported by our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal. This morning the defense minister stated that Israel had taken into account all the security events to be expected in the wake of the passage of the Golan Heights Law. The IDF has taken all the necessary measures in view of the possibility that forces will be moved or that the terrorists will attempt to harass the settlements on the Golan Heights.

JERUSALEM POST CRITICIZES NEW GOLAN LAW

TA150548 Jerusalem POST in English 15 Dec 81 p 10

[Editorial: "On a Whim and a Prayer"]

[Text] The last time, before yesterday, that a bill for the annexation of the Golan Heights was offered in the Knesset, the government's response was that the idea was fine, in principle, but that it was not opportune.

Justice Minister Moshe Nisim, speaking for the government, said the international community was well aware that the Golan Heights, captured in the Six Day War, were of overriding strategic importance for Israel, and no analogy could be drawn between the Golan and Sinai, and that Israel would never "come down" from the heights. But the time, Mr Nisim thought, was not ripe for the passage of such a measure -- which, in any case, was not necessary.

The Knesset, persuaded by Mr Nisim, rejected the Tehiya bill by a majority of 45 to 13.

This was on March 11 of this year. Since then a number of changes have taken place on Israel's northern border, in Israel's foreign relations and in the world arena. But nothing has happened that would appear to warrant the formal annexation of the Golan Heights. The "policy guidelines" of the new Likud administration, formed in the wake of the June 30 election, reiterated the principle of "no descent" from the Golan, but left the matter of annexation suitably up in the air again.

Then, yesterday, on his last day at the Hadassah hospital, Premier Menahem Begin, rising from his sickbed, made up his mind to annex the Golan Heights.

In pursuit of his sudden whim Mr Begin hastily called in his ministers, first to the hospital and then to his residence, and obtained their unanimous consent -- the only honorable dissenter who would not take part in the vote was Energy Minister Yitzhaq Berman -- to his snap decision for the "application of Israeli law, jurisdiction and administration to the Golan Heights."

The premier than rushed the measure through three Knesset readings to its expected approval by an early morning hour. That was a legislative feat without precedent in the history of Israeli parliamentarism. Never before had so momentous a measure, with such far-reaching implications, been shoved down the Knesset's throat, without giving members an opportunity for careful deliberation.

In practical terms -- in terms, that is, of consolidating Israel's hold on the area -- the Golan Law, as Amnon Rubinstein (Shinuy) rightly pointed out, was wholly redundant. What was it, then, that made yesterday the proper time for a reprise in the Golan on a theme from the Jerusalem law?

Was it disillusionment with the Habib mission as a peaceful instrument for getting the Syrian missiles removed from, and the PLO disciplined in, Lebanon? Or the hope that the big powers would be too preoccupied with the affairs of Poland to pay heed to so minor a matter as the Golan? Or the desire to "test" Egyptian intentions, in the expectation that they would turn out to be benign, in advance of April 25? Or the desire to embarrass the Alignment, divided as it has long been on the issue of the Golan?

It appears that all these absurd reasons for his timing were at least not absent from Mr Begin's mind, and they alone condemn the Golan Law as an exercise in monumental self-deception.

For one thing, Israel's experience in 1956 should have taught everyone, even Mr Begin, that the attention of the big powers is not easily diverted from the Middle East, even at a time of deep crisis at the heart of Europe. The premier was said to be confident that he would be able to ride the storm indicated by Washington's expression of "stupefaction" over Jerusalem's move, and that the peace with Egypt would survive the shock. This might be so, in the short run. The real question, however, was how the Golan Law would affect the attitudes of friendly countries in the confrontation that has now been triggered with Syria.

Mr Begin had a ready quotation from President Hafiz al-Asad with which to buttress his case, in his wheelchair address to the Knesset. For in an interview with a Kuwaiti newspaper, reported by the local press only yesterday morning, the Syrian leader declared that his country would "never" recognize Israel. But was this any more reason for Israel to annex the Golan than similar statements by Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir, and for a while even by Anwar as-Sadat, would have served to justify the annexation of Sinai?

By his action -- a one man's action -- yesterday the premier put Israel in violation of UN Resolution 242, the basis of all peace negotiations after 1967 and 1973. Mr Begin has in fact written off the peace, no less than President al-Asad.

Thus he has assured that Syria, the aggressor through the decades, but in this case the aggrieved party, should have the support of the world community, for whatever it is worth, in the conflict with Israel. If it comes to blows over the Golan, as it very well may, such support could be worth something. The piece of paper called the Golan Heights Law would be worth nothing.

POST: NEW GOLAN LAW 'NOT QUITE ANNEXATION'

TA150601 Jerusalem POST in English 15 Dec 81 p 2

[Report by David Richardson: "Golan Bill 90 Percent Annexation"]

[Text] The government's bill to extend Israeli "law, jurisdiction and administration" to the Golan Heights does not quite amount to annexation of the area occupied by Israel during the 1967 war, according to two prominent international lawyers.

"If you like, it's 90 percent of annexation. But it still falls short of sovereignty over the area," said Professor Yoram Dinstein of Tel Aviv University last night.

"There are all sorts of marginal issues that remain unsettled and there is no annexation without extending citizenship," he pointed out.

Prof Rut Lapidot of the Hebrew University, who until a month ago served as the legal adviser to the Foreign Ministry, said that -- like the 1967 law which used the same phrase to extend Israeli civil administration to east Jerusalem -- the question of citizenship now appears to depend on regulations to be drafted by the interior minister. In east Jerusalem, these regulations do not compel Arab residents to take out Israeli citizenship.

Dinstein noted that it was last year's Jerusalem law tabled by MK Ge'ula Kohen, declaring united Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel, which effectively annexed the eastern part of the city. "Had the 1967 law been sufficient, there would have been no need for the Jerusalem law," he said.

Lapidot recalled that in 1967 MK Abba Eban told the UN General Assembly in his capacity as foreign minister that the law applying Israeli law and jurisdication to east Jerusalem did not mean annexation.

Dinstein and Lapidot differed over the question of the legality of the government's bill. According to Dinstien, Israel as a belligerent occupier under international law, is not empowered to extend its own laws to the area under military occupation.

He noted, however, that unlike in the West Bank and Gaza, the Israeli administration did not find any Syrian law books when the Golan was conquered and no indigenous legal apparatus remained. In their absence, the Military Government issued orders which effectively enacted Israeli law for the area. "It's a sophisticated reason or -- if you prefer -- an excuse," he said. "But from the beginning we have applied Israeli law in the Golan and this law does no more than confirm the status quo."

Lapidot concurred that, from a legal point of view, the law had little effect, but she felt that the question of legality was not clear-cut. "Under international law, a country is not allowed to annex an area it has occupied until a peace treaty has been concluded," she said. "Since the Syrians have been consistently opposed to negotiating a treaty, the question arises whether the occupation can continue indefinitely without the legal situation being affected."

PRESS EDITORIALS MIXED ON GOLAN HEIGHTS LAW

TA150848 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0440 GMT 15 Dec 81

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpts] HA'ARETZ says we should ask ourselves whether the Golan Heights Law is really necessary even if it brings no more serious reactions than objections, diplomatic notes of protest and condemnatory votes in the UN. The situation on the Golan Heights was in fact nearly ideal. The IDF guards a fortified network of Jewish settlements. Syria has never demanded that muslim refugees who abandoned their villages in the 6-day War be allowed to return, and the Syrian president's refusal to join the peace process need not bother us. The Government of Israel has the right to initiate a law, and the Knesset may pass it by a majority vote, but we will find it difficult to justify the application of Israeli sovereignty in a territory that was outside the League of Nations Mandate by citing the fact that Syria is not ready to sign a peace treaty with us.

HATZOFE says the government's action came at precisely the right time. The United States is busy with Libya, the Soviet Union and Poland, Egypt will join in the condemnations but probably no more than that, as it has not yet recovered the last part of Sinai from Israel. The declaration by Syrian President al-Asad that he will never recognize Israel, even if the PLO does, also created a convenient atmosphere for the new law, the paper says. In practice, the law merely translates the reality which already exists on the ground, but it is important from a political view in that a majority of the Knesset has voted that Israel must not withdraw from the Golan. Unlike the situation regarding the application of Israeli law in Jerusalem, this time it was the government that initiated the law, and it also determined the right time for it. We are anxious, the paper goes on, about the consequences of the passage of this law, which is both politically bold and is also in the nature of a provocation. However, this may have been the final opportunity to pass this kind of law.

DAVAR says that the matter is too serious to be tempted into portraying through appropriate words the theatrical element in the presentation of the Golan Law by the prime minister. However, the seriousness of the situation did not apparently penetrate the government's consciousness when it decided on a kind of parliamentary tower and stockade and on creating legislative faites accomplis. The paper adds that the situation in Poland will not divert anyone's attention, nor will the United States regard it as a friendly act, to put it mildly. The question must be asked why in fact Menahem Begin opted for this path. Was it to at last repulse the bothersome questions about the missiles in Lebanon, or to prove that despite his being confined to a wheelchair he is still a potent force?

HAMODI'A writes that the government was disappointed if it thought that the law would be received without objection and without negative reactions in the international arena. Not everyone is ready to accept blindly a step that could arouse fury against Israel. The law adds nothing to Israel's standing on the Golan, and the reason for yesterday's outburst of celebrations is therefore unclear.

'AL HAMISHMAR writes that the government of national blunders has done it again. Menahem Begin has once again appeared in the Knesset as he appeared at election rallies: not as a statesman of balanced judgment, but as a radical fanatic nationalist who is in a hurry to exploit international circumstances in order to carry out a political step whose benefit is doubtful but whose harm is certain and apparent. Mr Begin's extremism helps no one except radical nationalists in the Arab states. Our government is eating sour grapes and our teeth are set on edge.

Afternoon Papers

TA150923 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] MA'ARIV writes that the speed with which the Golan Heights Law was passed shows the government's weakness. Apparently it did not trust its ability to withstand pressures. It succeeded in embarrssing the opposition, but it is difficult to predict whether the law was necessary at this time with respect to foreign relations.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT writes that under normal conditions it might be right to argue that such an important law should not be passed in a hurry. But the circumstances of our life are not normal, and the anti-Jewish opposition outside the country had to be taken into account.

INFORMATION CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED ON GOLAN LAW

TA150630 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer on Morning Newsreel -- live]

[Text] This morning, after the passage of the surprise Golan Heights Law in the Knesset, the reasons are being spelled out. The branches of the Foreign Ministry have readied themselves, and the campaign has been transferred to Israeli representations around the world. Deputy Foreign Minister Dr Yehuda Ben-Me'ir said yesterday evening that Israel knew in advance what the political ramifications would be of passage of the Golan Heights Law, and all that it would imply.

[Begin Ben-Me'ir recording[We have already sent a lot of material abroad. I want to note that in its files the Foreign Ministry had material on the Golan Heights which was detailed, about the security aspects, the legal aspects, the well-known extremist Syrian stand -- all these matters are already in the hands of our representations around the world. We have a film which stresses the security aspect of the Golan Heights in connection with Galilee and the north. That film -- which was produced by the Foreign Ministry -- has been sent to our representations. We had it ready, and now we have released it at once. We of course continue to get reports from all our representations, and we will work all night and will continue to work in the coming days to implement Israel's political and information campaign on a matter of vital importance to us. [end recording]

[Schiffer] The surprise was evidently total. The ministers were taken by surprise, and so was the U.S. ambassador in Israel. Sam Lewis yesterday held several angry conversations with Foreign Minister Shamir and with Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche, in which he indirectly expressed the U.S. surprise at the Israeli move. This is an unfriendly act toward us, the ambassador said. It will sabotage [lehabel] the peace process, he added. However, everything was taken into account. One of Israel's main arguments in explaining the move will be the following:

[Begin Ben-Me'ir recording] When the State of Israel is about to complete its full withdrawal from Sinai -- with all that this entails: the great concession we made and the immense risk we assumed for the sake of peace -- at this time it is also important that we ensure our security borders in the other sectors, particularly in the Golan sector where the question is one of our survival. [end recording]

[Schiffer] This morning the Foreign Ministry awaits the report of Israeli Amabassador to Egypt Moshe Sasson, who was yesterday summoned to meet with the Egyptian foreign minister. In Dr Ben-Me'ir's view, the Golan Heights Law will not affect the peace process with Egypt.

[Begin Ben-Me'ir recording] The passage of the Golan Heights Law has nothing to do with the peace treaty with Egypt. Israel is fully maintaining the peace treaty. The Government of Israel has announced that it will also execute the difficult and tragic part of the peace treaty -- the uprooting of our settlements in Sinai, the need to evacuate settlements in Sinai. We are faithful to the treaty in spirit and in letter. The Golan Heights does not appear in the peace treaty, the Golan Heights is not mentioned in the Camp David accords. There is no connection between the two. [end recording]

AUTONOMY TALKS WITH EGYPT SLATED TO RESUME

TA150717 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a on the Morning Newsreel -- live]

[Excerpt] In a heavy and serious atmosphere the negotiating teams on the autonomy met yesterday in Tel Aviv after a series of delays during the afternoon at the request of the Egyptian delegation, which was in constant touch with Cairo. The head of the delegation, Tahir Shash, said at the beginning of the meeting that his delegation expressed regret at the Israeli Government move, which contravened international law, the Geneva Convention and Camp David.

On the Israeli side, delegation head Hayim Kubersky replied that the forum was meant for autonomy negotiations and not to express views or assessments of political moves. Kubersky explained to the Egyptians that following Camp David Israel had many times invited Syria to join the peace negotiations, but Syria had rejected all the approaches. The head of the U.S. delegation, Ambassador Gluverius, asked for the floor and expressed concern at any unilateral step taken by any country in the region which is liable to undermine Resolution 242 and conflict with international resolutions. The meeting thus ended. There was no discussion of the autonomy plan, and as things stand now the autonomy teams are to meet in Tel Aviv at the levels of experts at 1000 hours.

ALGERIA

SPOKESMAN CONDEMNS ANNEXATION OF GOLAN HEIGHTS

LD141956 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Excerpt] The Zionist enemy today annexed the occupied Syrian heights to its artificial entity, again confirming bv this action its determination to continue its expanionist course and its grabbing of further Arab land by force.

A spokesman for the Algerian Foreign Ministry announced that this decision to annex the Golan Heights is an act of international terrorism which stems from the nature of [word indistinct] of Zionism and constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and UN resolutions because it tramples underfoot the principle of not seizing land by force. The Foreign Ministry statement said this measure adds to the long list of continuing violations by Tel Aviv's administration against international law, the latest of which was the annexation of Jerusalem. The Foreign Ministry spokesman said Algeria is convinced the Zionist authorities would not have been able to pursue a policy of aggression and expansion without the approval of, or rather in collusion with, some of the big powers. The spokesman went on to say it was by no means a coincidence that this annexation should come a day after the signing of the agreement on strategic cooperation between Tel Aviv and Washington and [words indistinct] which can only encourage the Zionist entity to continue the path of hegemony and expansion.

Algeria appeals to the Arab nation to consolidate its unity and to mobilize all its capabilities and energies to confront this provocation. [Words indistinct] the spokesman said the United Nations should, for its part, take the substantial aggression against the Syrian Arab Republic and to put an end to the adventurous policy pursued by the leaders of Tel Aviv, which seriously endangers world peace and security.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman ended his statement by saying Algeria once again expresses its active solidarity with the Syrian people [words indistinct].

ENVOY ASKS CLARIFICATION OF CHEYSSON REMARKS

LD112354 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Excerpt] Mohamed Sahnun, Algerian ambassador to France, requested a meeting at the Quai d'Orsay today with the secretary general for the French external relations minister. In connection with this visit, Mohamed Sahnun told the Algerian press agency, our national agency, that he expressed Algeria's concern over the statements made by responsible French personalities concerning the conflict in the Near East. The ambassador said he demanded some clarifications about French policy in that region. In any case, the brief statement made by the French external relations minister in general has caused anxiety and pre-occupation in the Arab world.

FLN, CPCZ DELEGATIONS HOLD TALKS ON RELATIONS

LD02112 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Talks between an FLN delegation headed by Brother Slimane Hoffmann, chairman of the party's External Relations Committee, and A CPCZ delegation headed by Jindrich Polednik, secretary of the Central Committee for International Relations, was held today. The talks dealt with bolstering relations between the two countries and with developments in the international situation. The visit of the CPCZ delegation is in accordance with the agreement signed in Prague in November [year indistinct].

LIBYA

JANA COMMENTS ON ANNEXATION OF GOLAN HEIGHTS

LD142016 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Dec (JANA) -- In another act of defiance to the Arab nation, the Zionist enemy has decided to annex the Golan Heights to occupied Palestine. The enemy radio broadcast the decision of the Zionist Cabinet to annex the Golan. The decision was made public following the Cabinet's emergency meeting today.

JANA's political editor commented on this decision which exposes the enemy's expansionist nature. He said this aggressive expansionist action by the enemy reflects the essence of Zionist ambitions and the racist Zionists' readiness to go to any lengths to achieve their dream of a state extending from the Nile to the Euphrates, supported in this respect by Washington.

Undoubtedly, the action taken by the Zionist enemy today provides yet another proof of the soundness of the revolutionary principles which categorically define the nature of the Arab-Israeli conflict as being one of existence and not of borders.

In view of this, we wonder what still keeps the Arabs gambling on illusions as they witness today this persistence in arrogance, obduracy and defiance by the enemy.

The Israeli decision to annex the Golan, which actually reflects their racist tendencies, now confronts those who claim that the United States is capable of finding a solution and who find excuses for it and pin wide hopes on it in return for the consolations it provides them. What arguments and excuses do these people now have for their continued gambling on illusions?

We have affirmed, from a position of commitment and from our realization of the facts of the pan-Arab struggle, that there is no way to achieve the freedom of the Arab nation, to bolster its dignity, other than the way of unity and to end the struggle, whether we live or die.

It was in this context that the commander of the revolution issued his sincere appeals and alerts about the need to rally all the Arab capabilities in the face of the Zionist enemy and his agents, and to foil all the designs and plots hatched to realize the Zionist domination of all parts of the Arab homeland and to seize all the natural resources of the Arab nation.

The commander of the revolution was right to send a message to King Khalid, with copies to Arab kings and presidents, on 17 November when he warned that the Zionist enemy is working persistently and seriously to implement his aggressive plan to establish a Zionist state extending from the Euphrates to the Nile and from Jerusalem to Mecca and Medina, and that the security and existence of the Arab nation have actually become threatened by the Zionists.

We are confident that we are telling the truth when we say this barbaric action, taken by the Zionist enemy today, stems from the new position of power bestowed on him by the American administration within the framework of the strategic alliance between the United States and the Israeli enemy. Through this alliance, the U.S. administration provides the enemy with all the guarantees of defense and all justifications for any aggressive action he may take.

While denouncing this expansionist action, which is compatible with the enemy's tendency toward domination and his spirit of adventure and continued aggression, we must affirm that the flame of pan-Arab struggle will never die and that this nation is capable of putting an end to the conflict and will assert the dignity of the Arab nation.

OFFICIAL SAYS AMERICANS LEAVING WON'T AFFECT OIL

LD150848 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Dec (JANA) -- Brother 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of heavy industries, held a press conference at the Fatih cultural complex in Tripoli last evening, attended by a large number of press and world news agencies representatives in the Jamahiriyah.

The heavy industries secretary stressed that the Reagan administration's decision to force American citizens working in the Jamahiriyah to leave will not affect in any way Libya's oil production operations. He refuted the Reagan administration's claims about the safety and security of the American citizens in the Jamahiriyah, making it clear that they are enjoying more safety than they would at anywhere in the United States.

This has been stressed by the American citizens themselves through their statements to press and American news agencies representatives.

Al-Muntasir made it clear that Reagan's call [words indistinct] the companies operating in the Jamahiriyah and he stressed that the American companies operating there could not gamble with their interests in Libya. In this connection, he referred to Shell Oil Company, which left Libya three times and then returned to resume its activities in the Jamahiriyah.

The heavy industries secretary praised the stance of some sister countries and their backing and support for the Jamahiriyah and their readiness to provide Libya technical expertise regarding oil.

TRIPOLI MEDIA REPORT ON SUPPORT FOR LIBYA

NC140913 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] The revolutionary forces in France, Spain and Arab students' unions in Poland and the League of Lebanese Students in Poland have denounced the stands of the U.S. administration toward the Libyan Arab people.

In their telegrams to the brother leader, they affirmed their solidarity with the Jamahiriyah against the terrorist American provocations.

The masses of the basic popular conference in Brazil, the Arab revolutionary force in Turkey and the union of Egyptian Arab workers, the Jamahiriyah branch, and the Arab-Libyan Society and the Arab students in Istanbul have denounced the aggressive campaign launched by the Reagan government against the Jamahiriyah people. In telegrams to the leader of the revolution, they affirmed their stand with the people of the Jamahiriyah in dealing with these aggressive provocations.

Also the grouping of Egyptian patriots abroad denounced the aggressive campaign of the terrorist Reagan government against the Jamahiriyah people. In a statement issued yesterday in Paris, the grouping said that the campaign of distortion and forgery of the stands of the revolution is a prelude to the American aggression against the Libyan Arab people. The statement reviewed the series of American provocations against the Jamahiriyah people. The statement added that by trying to attack the Jamahiriyah people, the Reagan government seeks to strike at a bastion of Arab, African and even world movements supporting the Palestinian revolution and the various national and revolutionary movements in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The statement said the grouping of Egyptian nationals denounces the U.S. methods of terrorism, tyranny and threat. It announces its full support with the Jamahiriyah people and considers any attack on the Jamahiriyah a direct attack on the entire Arab nation.

Iran announced its stand on the side of the Jamahiriyah against the pressures and provocations of the terrorist Reagan administration. Iranian Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, in a statement to Iranian radio, said the Islamic government announces strong support for the brotherly Libyan Arab people. He assured Iran's readiness to cooperate with Libya in the field of oil. He added it is certain the will of the Muslim revolutionary masses in north Africa will not weaken or surrender because of the U.S. threats.

JANA Editor

LD141948 Tripoli JANA in English 1822 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Dec (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY) -- Some friendly countries, many organisations, and liberation movements expressed solidarity with the Jamahiriyah's people in their confrontation against American imperialist attacks.

These attacks came in the form of provocations, threats and aggressive actions which all reveal malicious U.S. intentions.

Algeria, Kuwait, Syria and Democratic Yemen affirmed their solidarity with the Jamahiriyah's people, their backing for their struggle to deter American encroachments and to counter various campaigns of pressure launched by Reagan's administration against the Jamahiriyah.

Our political editor praised this Arab solidarity shown by all these friendly countries saying: Pride is highly praised by our people.

[Words indistinct] imperialistic schemes, which aim at imposing hegemony and domination on our Arab nation, from the Atlantic to the Gulf. News about these stands which support and strengthen our nation on the part of these friendly countries have been distributed to all the people's congresses taking part presently in their third ordinary session. These will be recorded as stand dictated by a growing popular feeling of awareness, resulting from escalating American aggressive moves against our people.

We, here today, in our firm determination and belief in confronting aggression on our nation, express our deepest thanks to these friendly countries, our pride for their stands, and all stands taken by the active revolutionary forces in our Arab nation, and those who faithfully believe in the joint struggle against enemies of freedom for liberation and emancipation.

Iranian Oil Minister

LD122322 Tripoli JANA in English 1504 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 12 Dec (JANA) -- The Iranian oil minister Engineer Mohammad Gharazi said the U.S. Government's call on American citizens to return to the United States is in effect an embargo on Libyan oil. This, he said, is seen by the Iranian Government as a threat directed against it too.

In a statement made today in Tehran he said the Jamahiriyah has peacefully transacted throughout the years with the U.S. through its oil relations. In spite of this, he added, America has today chosen to follow a hostile stance against the Jamahiriyah.

Gharazi said Iran is certain that this confrontation between the meek and the mighty shall continue unabated.

Syrian Daily

LD130246 Tripoli JANA in English 1445 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] Damascus, 12 Dec (JANA) -- The Syrian newspaper ATH-THAWRAH today condemned the feverish campaign of allegations against the Jamahiriyah.

It said the U.S. citizen has been totally saturated by the anti-Libya campaign, as if there were no other pressing problems in the world. It said the campaign is the precursor of a direct military invasion of Libya and is designed to prepare domestic opinion for this invasion.

The paper said that if the recent campaign is the final stage of the Pentagon's aggressive scheme, then the plotters of this scheme should well realize that the Jamahiriyah is no easy prey and will not be left alone to face U.S. aggression. It said the world's progressive and freedom-loving forces will support Libya's confrontation of any aggression.

Jamaican Party

NC120712 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] The National People's Party in Jamaica denounced the imperialist plots being hatched by the Reagan administration against the people of the Jamahiriyah. In a cable sent to the leader of the revolution, the National Party in Jamaica affirmed the party's solidarity with the Libyan Arab people in their struggle against the hostile U.S. provocations.

U.S. Antiwar Group

LD140814 Tripoli JANA in English 1809 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] New York, 12 Dec (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY) -- The organization for the people's mobilization against war in the U.S. today objected to the Reagan administration hysteric anti-Libyan campaign.

In a statement issued today in New York, the organization expressed deep concern for what it believes are preparations by Washington for flagrant armed aggression against Libya. It said the American press' daily publication of reports of an alleged Libyan conspiracy against the Reagan administration are part of a carefully orchestrated policy of influencing American public opinion.

The organization condemned the Reagan administration's terroristic measures against the Libyan Arab people.

California Teachers

NC130849 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received a written message from the members of the teaching staff of the University of California, in which they denounced the escalation of hostilities by the Reagan administration against the Jamahiriyah.

They affirmed that at a time when the relations between the friendly American and Libyan Arab peoples are passing through a delicate stage as a result of the actions of the U.S. administration and its hostile positions toward Libya, they strongly oppose the U.S. foreign policy line followed by the Reagan administration toward the Libyan Arab people.

The message, which was signed by the members of the teaching staff of the University of California, says: While we are keen on the establishment of just and fair relations with the Jamahiriyah people, we are trying hard to use all the available means to develop social awareness regarding the improper conduct of our international relations with the Jamahiriyah people. We affirm that there is an asset of good will and honesty in our society which we hope to utilize and direct to serve the cause of justice in the relations between our two peoples. We hope this will contribute to the achievement of a better understanding between the two peoples.

COMMENTARY CRITICIZES REAGAN'S LIBYAN POLICY

LD120554 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] It was a testimony which honored the Great 1 September Revolution, the Arab nation and all the peoples struggling for freedom, when the U.S. administration announced that Libya works for undermining U.S. interests which bring aggression and destruction and exaust the peoples' resources. By making this statement, the U.S. administration has bestowed on the Jamahiriyah the noblest, the dearest and the most honorable values which form the basis of revolution in the Jamahiriyah at the pan-Arab and international level.

Those who agree to be servants and lackeys and who don't mind being trampled upon by U.S. imperialists are the ones who receive the Reagan administration's good behavior certificate. These are the ones called "guardians of U.S. interests." They are the ones cited as examples and as the standard to be followed. What the dead As-Sadat had been doing and what Numayri, Siad Barre and Qabus are doing are prime examples. These contemptible and collapsing regimes are considered by the United States as examples to be followed.

Because the Great 1 September Revolution rescued itself from this filthy swamp and refused to be included in the list of those who bow to the false U.S. arrogance; because it persisted in following a genuine independent line free from the fetters of custodianship, containment and subservience to any power in the world; because it dealt a backbreaking blow to U.S. imperialist influence by closing out five U.S. bases immediately after the emergence of the Great 1 September Revolution; because it continues to follow the policy of exposing the truth of the aggressive U.S. presence in the Arab homeland and its bases, fleets and rapid deployment forces and aggressive military maneuvers; because it exposed the simple minded and ignorant hirelings who are quite content to be watchdogs for U.S. interests at the expense of the supreme national interests of the Arab nation; because the Great 1 September Revolution has stood and will always stand in the same fighting trench alongside the Palestinian Fedayeen for the liberation of Palestine and the return of the Palestinian people to their homes; because it stood and still stands most firmly against the Camp David (?accords) aggressive aims and conspiratorial parties; because it achieved an overwhelming rejection by the masses of the conspiracy and brought about a deadlock of the Camp David agreements; because of all these reasons and others the Arab nation and all free men in the world are very proud that U.S. imperialism based its attitude toward the Jamahiriyah people and the leader of the revolution declaring quite clearly that the Great 1 September Revolution works for undermining the U.S. interests.

With the admission of the U.S. administration itself, the issue here is not an issue of terrorism or so-called assassinations practiced by Libyans but is the reply of the Great 1 September Revolution to U.S. imperialist interests as well as because the Jamahiriyah people have rebelled against the basic logic of accepting U.S. custodianship and containment. It is also an issue of the independence of the Jamahiriyah people and their support for the causes of freedom and all the oppressed and persecuted in the world.

It became clear to U.S. public opinion and the whole world that Reagan and his administration are the terrorists and murderers. It is not an issue of the allegation that U.S. citizens in Libya are not safe; we challenge the U.S. administration and U.S. President Reagan to provide any proof which can confirm the truth of his claims about the so-called Libyan hit squad. We challenge the Reagan administration to give any proof which shows that U.S. citizens in Libya are not safe. At the same time, we call on the U.S. Congress and U.S. public leaders to come and see for themselves the normal life led by U.S. citizens in Libya like all the Libyans. We stress to the whole world that U.S. citizens in Libya live in an atmosphere of safety and tranquillity more than in the United States, where life is disturbed and unstable because of the atmosphere of terror which dominates U.S. society. The Great 1 September Revolution refuses to reply to the U.S. administration by retaliating because we are a revolution of values, ethics, principles and civilized ideals. We will reply by persisting to confront the criminal, aggressive and exploitative U.S. policy in the Arab world and by supporting all the causes of freedom and liberation in the world.

Inevitably, the Great 1 September Revolution will triumph in the arena of this struggle because it defends and fights for right. As for Reagan, he fights for the devil and wrong.

SUDAN

VICE PRESIDENT PRAISES SUDAN-PRC RELATIONS

JN141846 Khartoum SUNA in English 1750 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Canton, 14 Dec (SUNA) -- Sudanese First Vice President 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalilhas hailed the strong relations between China and Sudan and the wise policy adopted by China which supports the peoples' struggle for freedom and independence. Khalil also hailed the efforts exerted by China to curb hegemony and colonization and its economic and technical support to the Third World states. Khalil stated that during a dinner offered at his honour by the commissioner of Guangzhou Province.

ETHIOPIA

JALLUD ARRIVES FOR ETHIOPIA-PDRY-LIBYA TALKS

LD111730 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Text] Brother Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, member of the historic leadership of the Great al-Fatih Revolution of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, this morning laid a wreath at the victory monument.

Brother Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud arrived in Addis Ababa early this morning at the head of a high-ranking Libyan delegation on a 5-day friendly and official visit to socialist Ethiopia at the invitation of Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] and of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] and commander in chief of the revolutionary army.

Brother Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, who was accompanied by Comrade Fikre-Selassie Wodgeress, secretary general of the PMAC and member of the COPWE Executive Committee, was welcomed by Comrade Zewde Teklu, mayor of Addis Ababa at 19 March Square. He also was accorded a colorful welcome by the people gathered at the square. An honor guard saluted him and the national anthems of the two countries were played.

After laying the wreath at the victory monument, Brother Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud was briefed by an officer from the central sector command on the meaning of the victory monument.

Present at the ceremony were Comrade Berhanu Baye, member of the PMAC Standing Committee and the COPWE Executive Committee, minister, COPWE Central Committee members and the high-ranking delegates accompanying Brother Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud.

Medal Presentation

EA112048 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Ahmaric 1700 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Excerpts] Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] and of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia and commander in chief of the revolutionary army, today awarded Brother Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud the Africa medal, second class. At a ceremony at the national palace, Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam awarded the medal to Brother Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, member of the historic leadership of the Great al-Fatih Revolution of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [SPLAJ], in accordance with the decisions of the people and Government of revolutionary Ethiopia.

On the occasion, Comrade Chairman Mengistu said that Brother Major Jallud has been awarded the Africa medal, second class, in recognition of the political, economic and social contribution he has made to the Great al-Fatih Revolution and to establishing people's leadership and [words indistinct] in the struggle to free the people of SPLAJ of the monarchy, of the struggle he has waged against imperialism, colonialism and neocolonialism, of his support for African and Arab liberation movement, of the efforts he has made and will be making to strengthen relations between the peoples of Ethiopia and Libya and of his support for the Ethiopian revolution.

In a speech after receiving the mdeal, Brother Major Jallud said he is proud and pleased at being awarded the Africa medal, second class, in line with the decision of the people and Government of revolutionary Ethiopia. He said the earlier award of the medal to Brother al-Qadhdhafi, and now to him, shows the close friendship between the peoples and Governments of revolutionary Ethiopia and the SPLAJ.

Brother Major Jallud went on to say that awarding the medal to him not only honors him, but also encourages him to continue to do the things for which he was awarded it. Brother Major Jallud said he considers the medals awarded to Brother al-Qadhdhafi and himself as awards to the broad masses of the SPLAJ.

11 Dec Meeting

EA112208 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Text] Comrade Fikre-Selassie Wodgeress, secretary general of the Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] Executive Committee members, and Brother Maj 'Abd As-Salam Ahmad Jallud, member of the historic leadership of the Great al-Fatih Revolution of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [SPLAJ], met and held talks at the national palace this afternoon.

On the occasion, Comrade Fikre-Selassie Wodgeress and Brother Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud discussed the relations existing between the two friendly countries and the international situation as well as imperialism's current acts of provocation and encirclement in their surroundings.

Present at the talks on the side of socialist Ethiopia were Comrade Fisseha Desta, PMAC assistant secretary general, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and COPWE Executive Committee member; Comrade Brig Gen Tesfaye Gebre Kidan, member of the PMAC Standing Committee, national defense minister and COPWE Executive Committee member; Comrade Berhanu Baye, member of the PMAC Standing Committee and COPWE Executive Committee; Comrade Dr Felleke Geole-Giorgis, foreign minister and COPWE Central Committee member; Comrade Tesfaye Wolde Selassie, minister of public and national security and COPWE Central Committee member; and other government officials.

Present on the SPLAJ side were Brother (Daoli Suwaydan), secretary general for foreign relations in the People's Bureau; Brother Col (Juma Faraj Idris), chief of staff for air defense; Brother Col (Salam al-Fajjani), chief of staff of the air force; and other delegates accompanying Brother Maj Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud.

Brother Maj Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud arrived in Addis Ababa early this morning on a 5-day working visit at the invitation of Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the PMAC and of COPWE and commander in chief of the revolutionary army.

Mengistu-Jallud Talks

EA121640 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1100 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] and commander in chief of the revolutionary army, today received and held talks with Brother Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, member of the historic leadership of the Great al-Fatih Revolution of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, who is on a friendly official visit to socialist Ethiopia.

At the ceremony at Comrade Chairman's COPWE office, our revolutionary leader held talks with Brother Major Jallud on the relations between the two sisterly countries and the present international situation. Present at the occasion were Comrade Fikre-Selassie Wogderess, secretary general of the PMAC and COPWE Executive Committee member; Comrade Fiseha Desta, assistant secretary general of the PMAC, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and COPWE Executive Committee member; Comrade Brig Gen Tesfaye Gebre Kidan, PMAC Standing Committee member, defense minister and COPWE Executive Committee member; Comrade Berhanu Baye, member of the PMAC Standing Committee and COPWE Executive Committee; and Comrade Tesfaye Wolde Selassie, minister of public and national security and COPWE Central Committee member.

Defense Committee Discussion

EA132134 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] A high-level discussion of the defense and security committee of Ethiopia, Democratic Yemen and the Libyan Jamahiriyah was held in Addis Ababa today. The committee was formed in accordance with the treaty of friendship and cooperation signed in Aden last August by the heads of state of the three countries.

The meeting was chaired by Comrade Fisseha Desta, Provisional Military Administrative Council assistant secretary general, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia Executive Committee member. The Libyan delegation was led by Brother 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, member of the historic leadership of the Great al-Fatih Revolution of the Libyan Jamahiriyah, and the Democratic Yemen delegation was led by Comrade 'Ali Antar, member of the Politburo of the Yemeni Socialist Party and first deputy prime minister and minister of local administration. During the meeting, members of the defense and security committee of the three countries discussed issues of major importance.

Mengistu-Antar Talks

EA141856 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] and commander in chief of the revolutionary army, held talks this morning with Comrade 'Ali Antar, member of the Yemeni Socialist Party Politburo, first deputy prime minister of the PDRY and minister of local administration.

At a ceremony at the grand palace, our revolutionary leader and Comrade 'Ali Antar discussed the rapid growth in relations between socialist Ethiopia and the PDRY, as well as international issues. Comrade Berhanu Baye, member of the PMAC Standing Committee and the COPWE Executive Committee, attended the talks.

Jallud Comments

EA141858 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Brother Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud has confirmed that the current aggressive and provocative acts by American imperialism and its collaborators, designed to stifle progressive countries, will not deter the revolutionary movements of the region. On the contrary, they will help to further strengthen the progressive and revolutionary forces and cooperation between them.

This was confirmed by Brother Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, member of the historic leadership of Libya, this afternoon in a statement before departure for home at the end of a 5-day official friendly visit to socialist Ethiopia. He told journalists at Bole International Airport that he is satisfied with the results of his visit to socialist Ethiopia, adding the visit will further strengthen the two countries' already strong anti-imperialist stand.

He noted that the efforts of socialist Ethiopia, the PDRY and Libya to further strengthen their relations and cooperation in accordance with the Aden treaty of friendship and cooperation are gaining in strength all the time, adding that this treaty is not directed against anyone but aims at safeguarding the gains of the popular revolutions and the interests of the three countries and peoples.

Brother Major Jallud said American imperialism's current destructive moves in the region are aimed at disturbing the common desire of the three countries, their peoples and peace. They also are aimed at opposing their revolutions and their unity and, in particular, sabotaging the implementation of the Aden treaty which was designed to strengthen the joint anti-imperialist stand.

Brother Jallud said American imperialism particularly has embarked on a high-level psychological, economic, military and propaganda campaign against Libya. Brother Major Jallud said the imperialists also engaged in spreading rumors that Libya plans to assassinate President Ronald Reagan, without any basis of truth. On the contrary, he said, American imperialism is attempting to assassinate Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great al-Fatih Revolution of Libya.

He said the imperialists should be aware that it is not possible to deter a country's revolution by assassinating its leader, adding that whatever intricate plots are directed against Libya, his country will not budge an inch from its revolutionary stand. Brother Major Jallud said American imperialism should be ashamed of its terrorist activities instead of blaming others for its evil deeds.

Comrade Major Jallud was seen off by Comrade Fikre-Selassie Wogderess, secretary general of the Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] and member of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] Executive Committee; Comrade Fiseha Desta, assistant secretary general of the PMAC, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and member of the COPWE Executive Committee; and members of standing and executive committees of the PMAC and COPWE, at Bole International Airport.

PDRY Official's Departure

EA141942 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Summary] Comrade 'Ali Antar, PDRY first deputy prime minister, left for home this afternoon at the end of a working visit to socialist Ethiopia.

TIGRE FRONT: 300 GOVERNMENT AGENTS SURRENDER

EA141400 Voice of Tigre Revolution in Tigrigna to Ethiopia 1345 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] Between 5 and 10 December, 300 oppressed agents, armed by the enemy to fight against their compatriots and temporarily confused by the fascist dergue's propaganda, surrendered to the TPLF [Tigre People's Liberation Front] fighters stationed in Tselemt. The government agents were from Tselemt and were fully armed. They were some of the agents the fascist dergue had recruited from Tselemt and its environs to be used for bloodletting.

The defection of these agents is an indication of the desire of the people of Tselemt to join our revolution and fight against the fascist dergue. We believe that other government agents and regular soldiers who are still serving the fascist dergue to oppress our people will follow the example of these agents and give themselves up to the TPLF.

Meanwhile, on 8 and 9 December, agents (Yemane Gebre Egziabher) and (Berhane Kidane) from Selekhleka, (Haile Tadele) from [name indistinct], and (Gerenkiel Tesfu), (Hailu Adho), (Gerensie Gebre Kristons) and (Goitom Gebre Hiwot) from Rama gave themselves up fully armed and in possession of a Bren, an M-14 and other useful items.

ERITREAN FRONT RELEASES 3,000 ETHIOPIAN POWS

EA101148 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrigna 0430 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] Implementing the Politburo's decisions of 14-15 November, the EPLF [Eritrean People's Liberation Front] released 3,000 Ethiopian prisoners of war.

At ceremonies on 7 and 8 December in two prisoner of war camp, an announcement on the prisoners' release was made by Comrade 'Ali Said, Politburo member of the EPLF Central Committee and chief of security. Comrade 'Ali told the POW's they are free to go to the country of their choice.

[Begin recording] We wish to assure you that the EPLF has decided to release you and to let you go to the country of your choice. We will hand you over to representatives of the International Red Cross. [applause] We also wish to assure all of you that you are free as from today. [applause] [end recording]

Comrade 'Ali also said the EPLF is freeing the 3,000 Ethiopian POW's on humanitarian grounds and with full confidence in its policies. He reminded the released Ethiopian POW's that the EPLF freed over 6,000 POW's since the dergue assume power in Ethiopia. Following Comrade 'Ali's speech, the freed POW's assured the EPLF that they would struggle against the fascist dergue.

SEYCHELLES

CURFEW TO 'REMAIN IN FORCE FOR SOME TIME'

AB141053 Paris AFP in English 1033 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Victoria, 14 Dec (AFP) -- A curfew imposed on the Seychelles after last month's abortive coup d'etat by mercenaries must remain in force for some time because mercenaries are still at large, a government spokesman said.

The curfew is from today effective between 1800 to 0100 GMT on land and from 1400 to 0500 GMT at sea, the spokesman said over national radio last night. A sixth mercenary was caught on Thursday.

Forty-four of the mercenaries, who landed on November 25 for the coup attempt, escaped to South Africa in a hijacked plan after their bid failed and have been set free by the South African authoriites.

NIGERIA

NAN REPORTS TWO KILLED IN 13 DEC KANO CLASH

AB141657 Lagos NAN in English 1653 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Kano, 14 Dec (NAN) -- Two persons were killed in Kano yesterday during a clash between the Amino and Imoudu factions of the People's Redemption Party.

An eyewitness told a correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that the house of a member of the House of Representatives, Alhaji Danjani Hadeji, was also destroyed by people described as party thugs. The correspondent gathered that a Mercedes Benz car belonging to the legislator was also damaged.

The public relations officer of the Kano state police command, Mr. B.C. Nwadikwa, confirmed the clash and said that seven persons would appear in court in connection with the incident. He said, however, that no arrests in connection with the calling of [words indistinct] been made, but that investigations were continuing.

The correspondent said that the situation was now normal.

ARSON IN PLATEAU STATE, MURDER ATTEMPT REPORTED

AB141725 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] From the NIGERIAN STANDARD the headlines focused on the deputy governor of Plateau State, Alhaji Muhamadu Danlade Yakubu, as being held responsible for the arson and destruction of properties that occurred in Domah and Lafia towns on Saturday, December 5. The rampage occurred during the ill-fated launching of the movement for the creation of a (?middle-belt) state in the area. Previously, the police had warned on the need to postpone the launching since the situation was not conducive for the arrival of the Plateau deputy governor posed a stumbling block to the effort. The paper quotes the governor as saying: "As deputy governor, I must enter Domah town even if the people will eat my meat." The leader and the deputy governor then entered Domah but only when it was too late.

On its front page story, the NEW NIGERIAN talks of the near attempt on the life of Amino Kano being foiled. The leader of the People's Redemption Party, PRP, was nearly murdered on Saturday in Adikpe Seremakano during the party's national convention as he was being escorted out to the venue. A man apparently posed to attack was spotted by one of Amino's vanguards, and after being searched, was found to possess a sharp machete hidden under his clothing. He is said to have been handed to the police. [This was] the second attempt, the first being earlier in the year.

UNITY PARTY ANNUAL CONGRESS BEGINS 10 DEC

AB111035 Lagos NAN in English 1000 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Text] Lagos, 10 Dec (NAN) -- The leader of the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN), Chief Obafemi Awolowo, today in Lagos stressed the need for all Nigerians to be well fed and educated to make them committed to the aspirations of the country.

Speaking at the opening of the fourth annual congress of the party, Chief Awolowo said that Nigerians were hungry because they had been neglected by most of their governments. He said that the country had all the resources and opportunities for achieving greatness, but that efforts had not been geared towards ensuring the profitable use of those resources.

Chief Awolowo said that since 1960 the world had waited for Nigeria to assert itself with courage and vision in handling knotty international problems. He said that Nigerians had a duty to themselves, to Africa and the world to do things with an urgency and iron determination.

On foreign relations, Chief Awolowo said that Nigeria must strive to be friendly to all countries willing to reciprocate its friendship, adding that such countries must be treated with justice and fair play in business dealings.

On the creation of more states, the UPN leader said that the recent spate of demands was welcomed by the party, but regretted that the procedure contained hurdles which should be cleared before new states could be created. He said that section 9, subsections 3 and 4, of the Constitution which provides for an amendment to the provision of section 8 for creating more states was the most difficult hurdle.

The congress is being attended by the five UPN governors, all UPN legislators and party supporters.

12 Dec Proceedings

AB130719 Lagos NAN in English 1515 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] Lagos, 12 Dec (NAN) -- The national congress of the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN) today in Lagos mandated its national Executive Council to work out details of the proposed merger between the party and four other political parties in the country.

The move followed a report submitted to the congress on the realignment of progressive forces and read by the governor of Lagos state, Alhaji Lateef Jakande, on behalf of the governors of the five political parties.

The congress also approved the re-alignment of union of the progressive parties in the form of an alliance and also endorsed the regular meeting of the progressive governors.

The report described the meeting of the governors in the country as the highest thing that has happened to the country since return to civilian rule, adding that it has generated more formal process towards achieving good government. The report further stated that in spite of various attempts by the National Party of Nigeria (NPN) to discredit the meeting, the coming together had continued to be successful. The report said that the meeting had helped to extend personal relationship among the governors. The report attributed the inability of some UPN governors to attend the recent meeting on the proposed merger to timeliness which, it said, had since been taken care of. The report expressed the hope that other parties would not hesitate to join the fold.

A communique is expected to be released today at the end of the week-long congress.

Merger Issue

AB130747 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] The Unity Party of Nigeria, UPN, has expressed reservations over the issue of the merger of some political parties in the country. The party says that the time has not yet come or the circumstances right for such an exercise. Rather, it would opt for a grand alliance in the meantime. The stand of the party on the issue is contained in the 11-point resolution adopted at its fourth annual congress which ended in Lagos yesterday.

The party has also directed that all activities aimed at the nomination of its candidates for the 1983 elections be put off until the last quarter of the year.

On the creation of more states in the country, the party directed its members in the National Assembly to initiate a bill for the amendment of a section of the Constitution on the level of majority vote in a referendum. It said that such an amendment should seek to state that majority vote should be determined by the number of those who are eligible to vote and cast their votes at such a referendum.

The party's committee for the creation of more states in the country was also to be set up to handle the issue.

On education, the congress resolved that bursary or scholarship awards should be made automatically to all indigenes of UPN-controlled states studying in approved institutions of higher learning within the country.

The congress, which was attended by all the UPN governors and delegates from all parts of the country, was presided over by the national leader of the party, Chief Obafemi Awolowo.

NATIONAL PARTY DENOUNCES MERGER ARRANGEMENT

AB111730 Lagos NAN in English 1723 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Text] Port Harcourt, 11 Dec (NAN) -- The National Party of Nigeria (NPN) has described the merger arrangement by the other four political parties as a move towards renewing the old north/south dichotomy in the country.

In a statement issued by the assistant national publicity secretary of the party Mr. Sonny Arinyedokiary, in Port Harcourt on Wednesday, the party called on all patriotic Nigerians to snub the leaders of the new move, who it said, were determined "to cause chaos and confusion by emphasising north and south dichotomy." It said that such a stance was one of the elements responsible for the demise of the first republic.

The statement described the merger plan as a danger signal, saying that the proposed party was "being nurtured with malice, envy and hatred against the ruling UPN and its supporters."

POLITICIAN CALLS FOR REVIEW OF CONSTITUTION

AB141058 Lagos NAN in English 1043 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Kano, 14 Dec (NAN) -- The national leader of the Peoples Redemption Party (PRP) Malam Aminu Kano, on Friday in Kano called for a review of the Constitution to bring it in line with our human temper, sense and reason.

Addressing the fourth convention of his party, Malam Aminu said that no one suspected that in operating the Constitution, national and state assemblies would be turned into platforms for dancing by financial beneficiaries. The party leader observed that the Constitution had become expensive to operate making voters the servants of those they elected.

Malam Aminu said that the result of this situation was waste of resources, corruption, indiscipline, disloyalty, disappearance of healthy radical initiatives, prevailence of disorder, insecurity and subversion.

About 2,300 delegates attended the two-day convention.